



Learning Objectives
LOGY | The Spiritual Child
Friday, January 27, 2023

We are convening experts and authors spanning psychology, counseling, theology, ministry, and education to take stock of what the kids and teens need from us. We will converse, share, and learn together about the things youngsters are facing right now, and we will set sights on a collaborative set of solutions that bind our community together for their sakes. The day features offerings from classroom educators, social scientists, school counselors, youth ministers, authors, and psychologists, together forming a rich helping network of which you can be a part. With our integrating efforts, we coalesce to see the whole child.

GENERAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Analyze demands facing children and teens in 2022 from an interprofessional, holistic perspective.
2. Take stock of the current status of helping institutions: Mental Health, Church, and Education
3. Develop caring solutions that integrate mental health, academics, and spirituality
4. Build real-life networks and evidence-based collaborations between mental health care providers, educators, and faith leaders so that communities be more responsive to needs.

Plenary | Kids These Days: An Interprofessional Panel

- Cheryl Bishop, Director of Family Ministries at First United Methodist Richardson
- Carrie Davidson, Psy.D., Vice President of Clinical Services at The Center
- Phillip Fabian, Senior Director Student Programs & Data Solutions at Commit Partnership
- Aaronda Smith, 2022 DISD Teacher of the Year Award Recipient
- Nathaniel Strenger, Psy.D. Director of Clinical Advancement at The Center (moderator)

Academic Achievement is lagging, mental health needs are climbing, and religious affiliation is low. Five professionals, each caring for the academic, social-emotional, and spiritual needs of local kids and teens, discuss the unique needs facing the pandemic generations. The discussion will set the stage for the remainder of the day, highlighting challenges, observed institutional needs, and opportunities for interprofessional collaboration.

1. Highlight specific and topical needs facing kids and teens from interprofessional perspectives
2. Discuss needs caring professions have of one another as they serve kids and teens in 2022
3. Confess the challenges of interprofessional collaboration
4. Generate evidence-informed ideas for interprofessional collaboration to better serve kids and teens psychologically, academically, and spiritually.



Breakout 1 | Creating Supportive Communities to Help Families Recover from Child Loss and Child-Medical Trauma *Marisol De Jesus Perez, Ph.D., staff psychologist, The Center and Arnaldo A. Soto-Otero, M.Div., Global Mission Minister/Crisis Intervention Minister/Spanish Service Pastor, 121 Community Church*

A licensed psychologist and a former pediatric hospital chaplain teach about the nuances of medical-related stress as it pertains both to kids and their families; obviously a relevant, albeit difficult, subject worthy of attention. With evidence-based eyes turned to both the psychological and spiritual issues related, these two presenters clarify the hope found in intentional social support and wholistic interventions.

1. Identify some of the most common signs of medical trauma and complicated bereavement in children and adults.
2. Develop understanding of the complexity of the challenges parents and siblings experience in the process of recovering from medical trauma and the loss of a child
3. Explain the role of social support in the process of recovery.
4. Identify interventions and best practices within their discipline to efficiently connect family with supportive communities across the different settings in which they do life.

Breakout 2 | The Mental Health and School Connection, *Summer Martin, Ph.D., Director of Counseling Services, Richardson Independent School District*

The Director of Counseling Services for Richardson ISD co-presents with one of the community's gifted school counselors, discussing the crucial role mental health services play in the educational experience. The RISD counseling staff gives attendees an inside look into what kids and teens of the 2020s need, and how schools are set up to respond appropriately.

1. Understand how the school system identified mental health concerns and processes for alerting families
2. Learn how the school system supports student mental health in the 2020s
3. Identifying ways professionals can work together to support all students.

Breakout 3 | Staying Connected: Technology, Faith, and Mental Health, *Jeremy Edge, LPC & Daniel Echols, LPC, Escapingthe.com Counseling Services*

Two licensed mental health care providers, one a formerly ordained minister, team up to form a specialization in technology use, mental health, and faith. The presentation trains professionals to clearly identify problematic, disordered, and even healthy screen use. But it also does so with interesting attention paid to the role that faith and spirituality play in the lives of kids and teens too.

1. Identify healthy, problematic, and disordered screen use.
2. Explore the role of purpose and meaning within the areas of screen use and faith.
3. Process similarities and differences between screen use and spirituality
4. Learn about tools, resources, and treatments for those struggling with problematic screen use.



Breakout 4 | Gen-Alpha goes to Church: Ministry with and by Children, *Robin Turner, D.Min., Director of Child Ministries at All Saints Church Dallas, Vice-Chair of the Board Children's Spirituality Summit*

Author, ministry director, and Vice-Chair to the national Children's Spirituality Summit looks at the spiritual lives of Gen-Alpha, the youngest of us living through the 2020s. Considering social and spiritual development at a time like this, she looks ahead to the ways a generation might experience growth, religious affiliation, and ministry.

1. Understand the unique characteristics of Gen-Alpha including their needs and differences from previous generations.
2. Examine current Children's Ministry structures for safety, effectiveness, and intentionality
3. Welcome children as active companions on the spiritual journey.

Keynote | The Spiritual Child; Science on the Opportunity for Mental Health and Wellness,
Dr. Lisa Miller

Drawing on the award-winning research that culminated in a New York Times bestselling book, Dr. Lisa Miller offers a unique look into the world of *The Spiritual Child*. Attending to the roles that faith, spirituality, and religion play in public life, she also teaches her audience the ways these experiences develop and evolve in the lives of kids and teens. Noting the observable role spirituality plays in youth mental health and education, she offers a number of ways we might better attend to the whole needs of the kids and teens among us.

1. Learn the protective benefits of spirituality and religion against psychopathology in children and adolescents
2. Discuss how might the United States national epidemic of the diseases of despair be associated with the silencing of spirituality and religion in the public square
3. Propose the model of the US Army of the Spiritual Readiness Initiative (based upon the science of spirituality) be a model for schools, higher education and organizational mission.