

**Camille Smith, EdS, MS:** Educational Psychologist, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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D. Camille Smith, M.S., Ed.S. is an Educational Psychologist with the Learn the Signs Act Early Campaign, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. She is currently working on a program that aims to increase early identification of children with developmental delay by improving parents' awareness of early development, the importance of monitoring development and increasing healthcare and childcare provider awareness of the importance of developmental screening. Her research interests include the study of caregiver/child interactions, improving child developmental outcomes through programs designed to influence parenting behavior. She is co-author of the Essential Package of Health and Developmental Services -an intervention that holistically addresses the needs of young vulnerable children and their caregivers affected by HIV and AIDS.



**Debra Vigil, Ph.D.:** Associate Professor, University of Nevada Reno; Director, University Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment (UCAN); Co-Director, Nevada Leadership Education in Autism and Related Disabilities (NvLEND) Program

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Debra Vigil is an Associate Professor at University of Nevada Reno, Director of the University Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment (UCAN), and Co-Director of the Nevada Leadership Education in Autism and Related Disabilities (NvLEND) program. As Director of UCAN, Dr. Vigil directs a multidisciplinary team of professionals from a wide array of disciplines to conduct evidence-based assessments. Training is provided to child psychiatry fellows, master's and doctoral speech-language students, and NvLEND trainees to gain experience in working with children with autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities. She is the Clinical Director of NvLEND program and insures that trainees get interdisciplinary experiences in work with children and their families. Dr. Vigil works with other NvLEND faculty from a wide range of health professions in developing research projects and trains both practicing professionals in the healthcare field and master's level students to develop their own research agendas. Her research interests include cultural diversity issues in treatment of minority children with language disorders, and social interaction predictors of language disorders, and diagnosis of autism from a transdisciplinary perspective.



**Peggy Schaefer Whitby, PhD:** Associate Professor and Program Coordinator for the graduate certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders, University of Arkansas

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Dr. Peggy J. Schaefer Whitby is an associate professor in special education and program coordinator for the graduate certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders at the University of Arkansas. Prior to coming to Fayetteville, Dr. Whitby was an assistant professor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas and the director of the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders. She is a board certified behavior analyst at the doctoral level.

Dr. Whitby is the CDC's Learn the Signs. Act Early Ambassador to the state of Arkansas, serves as the co-chair of the state Learn the Signs. Act Early state team, and is the PI for Project Connect, a HRSA Combating Autism State Planning Grant.

Her research interests include the education of children with autism spectrum disorders. She has multiple publications in peer reviewed journals and book chapters on educating children with autism. Dr. Whitby is passionate about educational services for children with autism, as she believes this population has so much to offer yet is at great risk for not reaching their full potential unless proper educational supports are provided.



**Kate Taft, MPH:** Senior Program Manager for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP)

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Kate Taft, MPH, is the Senior Program Manager for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs at AMCHP. She manages AMCHP's grant portfolio and program activities related to autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities, which includes administration of the Act Early State Systems Grants.