

Please join the ASSOCIATION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS for

Building Identity on the Autistic Spectrum

presented by
Susan L. Donner, M.D.

Sunday, September 10, 2023

Via Zoom*

9:45am – Login

10am - Noon – Presentation

Recent studies have demonstrated that children and adolescents on the autistic spectrum are overrepresented in clinics addressing gender dysphoria/incongruence. As we know, they have “atypical” neurobiology and sensory processing that can impact their perceptions of their objects, the environment and themselves and thus may formulate their “identifications” quite differently than “neurotypical” children. As a result, many may struggle to establish a sense of a stable self, including gender identity, in an apparently seamless developmental unfolding. As a result, children on the spectrum with their developmental differences may offer us opportunities to learn how gender and other identities may evolve over time.

Objectives: at the end of this presentation, participants will be able to (1) define “identification”; (2) describe how the process of identification may differ in children and adolescents on the spectrum; and (3) explain how atypical sensory experiences and processing might lead to experiences of gender dysphoria/incongruence.

Susan Donner, M.D. is a child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist and psychoanalyst in private practice in Woodland Hills, CA. She graduated from the New Center for Psychoanalysis in the child and adult analytic programs and is now a Training Analyst; Child, Adolescent and Adult Supervising Analyst; Chair of the Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Training Program and Director of the NCP’s 0-21 low fee Psychoanalytic Clinic. She is an Associate Clinical Professor in Psychiatry at UCLA Geffen School of Medicine. She is also the recipient of the 2019 Rieger Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Prize given by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry for the paper, now published in the Psychoanalytic Study of the Child (2021) "Making Meaning through Play: Psychoanalytic Intervention in a Pre-School Child with Global Developmental Delay."

REGISTRATION: This event is free; however, you must register at <http://tiny.cc/ACDSEvent>

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT will be offered for this event. ACDS is pleased to offer continuing education credit for this presentation through the Child Development Institute (CDI). Attendees can receive two (2) hours of continuing education credit for a fee of \$20. If you wish to receive CE credit, you can request that using the RSVP link for this invitation.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT
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Please note: requests for CEUs must be made no later than Thursday, September 7, 2023.

The Child Development Institute is approved by the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists to sponsor continuing education for LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs and/or LEPs. The Child Development Institute maintains responsibility for this program and its content. CEPA CE Provider # 128441.

CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE (i.e., proof that you attended this event; often requested by non-board-licensed child development specialists) are available for this event. Certificates of Attendance are free for ACDS dues-paying members and \$5 for all others. This fee is payable via Venmo to @ACDS-LA or via [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) to ACDSLosAngeles@gmail.com.

*Originally, this event was offered in-person or via Zoom, however, due to low in-person attendance, we have cancelled the in-person option and this event will only be offered via Zoom.