



**2020 Annual Conference – Ancaster, ON
Saturday, April 25, 2020**

7:30 – 8:30 am **Conference Registration**

8:30 – 8:45 am **Welcome and Announcements**

8:45 – 10:00 am **SESSION I – General Session**

Role of Cognition on Reading and Mathematics – Dr. Kristin Barbour

This session will explore the role of underlying cognitive processes in the acquisition of reading and mathematical skills. Cognitive research related to various aspects of the reading process and mathematical thinking and learning will be reviewed, with implications for educational practice and intervention design in mind. This session will also include practical application suggestions for your educational therapy practice.

10:00 – 10:15 am **Refreshment Break**

10:15 – 11:30 am **SESSION II – General Session**

Using Visual Journals to Address Anxiety in Writing and Cognitive Concentration – Dr. Christina Belcher

In a digital age, increasing student anxiety may decrease a desire for writing. This presentation examines the benefit of using visual journals (VJs) as a way to engage students in addressing anxiety in writing and cognitive concentration for literacy engagement. Incorporating all of the language arts, (listening, speaking, viewing, reading, writing, and representation), coupled with student agency, can provide a safe space and timely response for increasing student cognition and literacy growth.

11:30 – 12:30 pm **LUNCH**

12:30 – 1:45 pm **SESSION III - Concurrent Breakout Sessions (2 options)**

Constructs of Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment – Dr. Kristin Barbour

Mediated learning, the Cognitive Map, and cognitive functions are core constructs of Reuven Feuerstein's Instrumental Enrichment theory and approach to developing students' thinking and learning. Participants will explore and experience mediated learning instructional practices, learn the language of thinking using cognitive functions, and strengthen their prescriptive approach to intervention using the Cognitive Map.

Reimagining Learning for the Future – Diane Geerlinks, PCET

We can all agree that our world is changing at a rapid pace. In this increasingly complex world, we must be careful to build students' knowledge and skills in order for them to navigate their future. How does this change affect our students who learn differently? In this workshop, we will discuss what skills are needed and what we can do to help our students step into this next decade with confidence.

1:45 – 2:00 pm **Refreshment Break**

2:00 – 3:15 pm

SESSION IV – Concurrent Breakout Sessions (2 options)

NILD Educational Therapy Demo – Jon McCloud, PCET

By retraining the brain to think more clearly, NILD Educational Therapy maximizes an individual's potential and transforms students into lifelong learners. In this workshop, you will see a portion of a typical Educational Therapy session with a Professionally Certified Educational Therapist. There will be time to ask your questions.

NILD Technique Review – Sharpening our Tools (NILD Therapists Only)

As NILD Educational Therapists, we are always looking to upgrade and improve our skills. In this workshop, all level therapists will have the opportunity to observe and participate as PCET's demonstrate techniques. This is your chance to sharpen our skills and be encouraged to go deeper in our therapy sessions.

3:15 – 4:30 pm

SESSION V – Concurrent Breakout Sessions (2 options)

Implementing Social Emotional Components into NILD Educational Therapy Sessions – Dr. Kristin Barbour

Learning science research indicates that psychological beliefs, learning, and achievement are intertwined. Educational therapists play a key role in shaping students' psychological beliefs, specifically the psychological beliefs of mindset, self-efficacy, identity, and belonging. This session provides participants with the content and instructional practices that can be implemented in NILD educational therapy that facilitate students' social-emotional competence.

The Digital Age: How Technology is Affecting the Cognition, Mental Health and Future of our Children – Mary-Lou Maclean, PCET

The effects of technology on children are perplexing, with both positive and negative outcomes. Whether technology supports or hinders the development of your child's thinking is dependent upon many variables and research is slowly providing answers. We will take a deep dive into how cognition, executive functions, behaviour, mental health, and physical well-being are affected by screen time in the lives of our children.

4:30 pm

Conference Closing

6:00 – 9:30 pm

Fund-Raising Dinner & Silent Auction