

## ***"Everyone Needs Friends: Supporting the Development of Peer Relationships"***

The primary goals of inclusive experiences for young children with and without disabilities include: a sense of belonging, positive peer relationships, and friendship formation. However, children with disabilities, social emotional delays or behavior that is challenging are likely to need increasing levels of support to learn critical social skills that lead to friendship formation and a sense of belonging. During this session, Dr. Hemmeter will discuss the importance of supporting positive peer relationships, strategies that can be used to support peer interactions, the critical need for individualizing these strategies, and how to collaborate with families to support children's social emotional development.

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