



**The Infant Development Association Statewide Conference 2019**  
September 13-14, 2019 • Holiday Inn San Jose-Silicon Valley  
**Facilitating Smooth Preschool Transitions for Children  
with Extensive Support Needs and Their Families**  
**DATE:** Saturday, September 14, 2019

This session will focus on understanding the complexities families may encounter in raising a young child with extensive support needs and the role early childhood professionals have in building family-professional partnerships to foster smooth transitions to preschool. Participants will examine the results of a study in which families shared about their experiences in this transition with their child, and what assisted (and hindered) this process. Opportunity will be given to develop an action plan that supports strong family-professional partnerships and facilitates the transition from early intervention services to preschool.

**Participants will:**

- Demonstrate an understanding of the (a) complexities of raising a young child with extensive support needs and (b) uniqueness of the preschool transition compared to other transitions in early childhood.
- Examine the findings of a study that detail strengths and challenges families may experience as their children with extensive support needs transition to preschool, and reflect on implications for practice.
- Develop an action plan that incorporates an ecological framework to foster strong family-professional partnerships and facilitate smooth preschool transitions.



**Chelsea Waters, M.A.**

Chelsea Waters is a doctoral student in the Department of Special Education at The University of Kansas (KU). She supervises undergraduate and graduate students in their inclusive early childhood fieldwork and practicum experiences. Chelsea's research focuses on exploring parent advocacy within early intervention and special education, as well as promoting practices that foster meaningful inclusion in early childhood settings.

**Amber Friesen, PhD**

Amber Friesen, PhD is an Associate Professor within the Department of Special Education at San Francisco State University (SFSU). Within this role, she coordinates the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Graduate program and

advises students within the Special Education Joint Doctorate Program between SFSU and UC Berkeley. Dr. Friesen's research focuses on promoting meaningful inclusion within early childhood settings and building partnerships between educators and families who have children with exceptional needs.



---

**REGISTRATION DETAILS AND ONLINE REGISTRATION at [www.idaofcal.org](http://www.idaofcal.org)**