Building Safe and Positive Online Experiences for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Dr. Mary Jo Krile, PhD, is an associate professor of Special Education at Eastern Kentucky University and has over 10 years of experience in teaching students with disabilities in the public K-12 and postsecondary settings, including teaching digital literacy to young adults with IDD. Dr. Krile's research, presentations, and resources are dedicated to promoting social media use and safety, as well as digital literacy skills, for individuals with IDD.

Date: Wednesday July 8, 2026
Time: 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. EDT
Where: Live Interactive Webinar
 Registered participants will receive an email with instructions on how to join the session.
Objectives: Participants will be able to:
1. Identify and explain the benefits and potential risks associated with social media, online learning, and digital networking for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD).
2. Apply evidence-based instructional strategies to teach individuals with I/DD how to effectively navigate online platforms while developing essential cyber safety skills.
3. Demonstrate strategies for teaching appropriate online communication and netiquette, including respectful interactions, boundary setting, and responsible digital behavior.
4. Evaluate the opportunities and risks associated with AI companions and AI-driven tools for individuals with I/DD and identify strategies to support safe and ethical use.

To register, click here
or call 443-923-4114.

Increased reliance on online platforms for learning, work, communication, and information has amplified access and inclusion challenges for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). At the same time, the expanding use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools presents both new opportunities and emerging risks. Many individuals with I/DD experience barriers to meaningful engagement with these platforms due to limited instructional strategies and ongoing cyber safety concerns. This webinar will feature interactive case studies that examine the benefits and risks of online and AI-supported platforms while providing evidence-based strategies for teaching platform navigation, cyber safety, and appropriate online communication and netiquette.
Instructional level: Intermediate.

Who should attend? Professionals and anyone interested in the topic. 3.0 Continuing Education Credits (Category 1) will be granted to licensed social workers and psychologists for attending the session in full and completing all requirements. A Certificate of Attendance will be made available for all other disciplines.

Kennedy Krieger Institute Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities is authorized by the Board of Social Work Examiners in Maryland to sponsor social work continuing education programs, and it maintains full responsibility for this program. Kennedy Krieger Institute is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Kennedy Krieger Institute maintains responsibility for this program and its content. No conflicts have been identified (this includes commercial support and research grants/funding). The registration fees are: $90 for professionals seeking CE credit, $70 for professionals and community members not seeking CE credit, and $35 for students not seeking CE credit who register with a school email address.

For more information on our Annual Learning Series or to request accommodation or assistance for individuals with disabilities, please contact us by phone at **443-923-4114**, email **Training.MCDD@KennedyKrieger.org** or visit **KennedyKrieger.org/MCDDTraining**. Requests should be made as soon as possible but at least seven days prior to the scheduled meeting.

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