

# Being the Best Advocate: Strategies for Supporting Children with Diverse Communication and Emotional Needs

**Date:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026

**Time:** 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Free but registration is required

**Location:** Live Parent Workshop via Zoom

Registered participants will receive an e-mail with instructions on how to join the session.



**To register; [CLICK](#) or scan the QR code. Register Early. Space is limited.**

**Description:** Parents and families play a vital role in advocating for their children and fostering meaningful interactions that support emotional well-being across a diversity of communication including nonspeaking children and those with unreliable speech. This training will help participants to recognize emotional needs expressed through behavior and varied communication methods, create inclusive opportunities using AAC and other modalities, and build confidence in responding effectively. Participants will also explore resources and strategies that renew caregiver motivation, while promoting trust understanding and connection with their children in supportive environments.

***This session is sponsored by Harford County Public Schools' Partners for Success Resource Center (P4S) in collaboration with the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute.***

## Speakers

**Dr. Mirian Ofonedu, PhD, LCSW-C**, is a psychologist, clinical social worker and director of training at the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute.

**Dr. Christina Love, PsyD**, is a psychologist and director of Language Access at Kennedy Krieger. She is an assistant professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

**Dr. Katherine Walton, PhD** is a psychologist, an associate professor and director of the Nisonger Early Learning Program at the Ohio State University. Her work includes improving early social communication skills in children with autism.

For more information or to request accommodations or assistance for individuals with disabilities, please email us at [Training.MCDD@KennedyKrieger.org](mailto:Training.MCDD@KennedyKrieger.org) or contact us by phone at 443-923-4114. Requests should be made as soon as possible but at least seven days prior to the scheduled meeting.

