

Stephanie Safran

Education Researcher and mom
to a transgender autistic
superstar



Breakout 1

Intersecting Spectrums of Identity: Supporting Kids who are Neuro-Diverse and Gender-Diverse

Have you been wanting to learn more about gender diversity? Do you have students, or a family member, who is autistic and also transgender, non-binary, or gender non-conforming? This session will answer some of those questions, summarize the current research on the co-occurrence of autism and gender non-conformity, and share insights from a parent advocate learning to support her awesome autistic transgender daughter. Zosia Zaks, a self advocate will also share his professional and personal experiences and insight. The presentation will include resources for parents, educators, and other service providers to support their work with "double rainbow" kids.

Participants who attend this presentation will be able to:

- Understand some fundamental concepts and terminology related to gender identity
- Understand some of the experiences and perspectives of a parent raising a child who is both autistic and gender expansive and those of a self-advocate
- Identify some important resources for parents and caregivers to help support children who are both autistic and gender expansive

Zosia Zaks M.Ed., C.R.C.

Self Advocate & Author



Zosia Zaks is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor with almost 20 years of experience working with autistic adults. Currently he manages the Hussman Center for Adults with Autism at Towson University and teaches courses on autism in the College of Health Professions.

Stephanie Safran is a former classroom teacher, an education researcher, and mom to one fantastic autistic transgender daughter.

Stephanie has masters degrees in Education and Public Policy, but nothing in her schooling prepared her for the life she is living. So she is in the process of unlearning much of what she thought she knew about the world we live in, while constantly striving to help make space in for kids like hers to thrive.