Promoting Reading Comprehension Proficiency During the Formative Preschool-Elementary School Years

Presented by: Dr. Noelle Balsamo
Hosted by: FAU CARD

About the Presenter
Dr. Noelle Balsamo is an Assistant Professor of Special Education at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) and a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst at the doctoral level (BCBA-D). Prior to joining FGCU, Noelle served in the role of Clinical Support Specialist and Assistant Director at FAU CARD from 2013-2019. Additionally, Noelle has over 15 years’ experience supporting preschool-elementary aged students with ASD in a variety of educational roles and settings. She specializes in the areas of inclusive education, special education, autism spectrum disorder, behavior analysis and parent education.

Training Description
This training will describe the uneven reading development profile of children with ASD and provide educators strategies for targeting specific emergent-conventional literacy skills that promote reading comprehension proficiency during the formative preschool-elementary school years. Recommendations for partnering with interdisciplinary team members and parents to enhance instruction across settings will also be provided.

Training Objectives
Participants will be able to:
- Understand the unique cognitive factors that contribute to reading comprehension challenges for students with ASD.
- Identify evidenced based interventions for supporting listening/reading comprehension for children with ASD in early childhood through the primary school years.
- Identify opportunities to collaborate with interdisciplinary team members and parents to increase timely and effective intervention focused on listening/reading comprehension proficiency.