

Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI) for Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders

**UC Irvine
Child Development School**

**Wednesday, December 5, 2018
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.**

**Building 8
UC Irvine Child Development School
19262 Jamboree Road
Irvine, CA 92612**



Dr. Sabrina Schuck will share results from her most recent work examining Animal Assisted Intervention (AAI) with certified therapy dogs for children with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and discuss how practitioners and educators may feasibly implement these strategies and be best prepared to overcome barriers to utilizing AAI in school settings. She will provide a review of recent studies that support the role of animals in enhancing skills of executive function and she will discuss the theoretical underpinnings for incorporating animals into educational settings for children with relative deficits in these skills.

Dr. Schuck is the Executive Director of the UC Irvine Child Development Center & School, which provides a classroom-based positive behavioral health program for children with ADHD, ASD, and related challenges. At UCI, she teaches psychology and child development, and supervises residents, fellows and undergraduate researchers. Her research examines innovative ways to improve executive functioning skills and build resilience in children with neurodevelopmental disorders. Her work focusses on understanding the biological and socio-cultural mechanisms underlying school failure and how gene by environment interaction may put children with executive function difficulties at risk for subsequent mental health disorders and poor life outcomes.



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