

WyDSA
Wyoming
Down Syndrome
Association SM



2024

family
conference

2024 conference schedule



8-9am **Registration and breakfast in the Gallery**

“Trends in Research on Inclusion” From Dr. Lewis Jackson

Dr. Jackson has been a featured speaker at WyDSA’s Family Conference on several occasions and always brings something new and exciting to share. He is a Professor of Special Education at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado. In his 30+ years of experience, he has worked closely with advocates, teachers, and families to enhance educational access through full integration into general education, universal design, and appropriate use of peers and adults. His research interests are primarily in inclusive education, literacy and communication, and positive behavioral support. He is well published, has presented nationally and internationally over the years, and is a co-author, with Dr. Marion Panyan, of a book entitled Positive Behavioral Support in the Classroom: Principles and Practices.

9:00-
10:30

10:30-10:45

Break



2024 conference schedule

10:45-
12:15

“ Managing Behaviors” With Dr. Lina Patel

Dr. Lina Patel is an Assistant Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, practicing at Children’s Hospital Colorado. Dr. Patel is the Director of the Down Syndrome Behavioral Health Collaborative, a virtual clinic providing tele-behavioral health services to children, teens and young adults with Down syndrome. She provides consultation with schools, parent training regarding the management of challenging or unsafe behaviors, toilet training, and desensitization to medical devices (such as hearing aids and CPAP) and procedure-related distress. She has worked with hundreds of individuals with Down syndrome. Outside of her clinical work, she conducts research as the Director of Neurodevelopmental, Behavioral and Cognitive Assessment at the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome. Additionally, she has presented to numerous organizations across the country and internationally and is the coauthor “Potty Time for Kids with Down Syndrome: Lose the Diapers, Not Your Patience”.



12:15-1:30

Lunch in the gallery

1:30-3:30

**“Independence” Q&A session with
Dr. Jackson & Dr. Patel**

3:30-5:30

Family time! Relax and Recharge

5:30-6:30

Dinner in the gallery

6:30-8:00

**Dance performance & Buddy Ball in
the Cooper Center theater**





respite provided

Children ages infant to 5

We have numerous toys, games, and activities planned throughout the day.

Children ages 6 to 9

We have music and a number of fun games, crafts, and activities planned for the day, including parachute games and a movie in the afternoon.

Children ages 10 to 14

We have music and a number of fun games, crafts, and activities planned for the day, including parachute games and a movie in the afternoon.

Teens (15 and up) and Adults

Incorporating basic jazz and modern dance styles while utilizing theatre improvisation techniques, people participating in this session will choreograph, rehearse, and prepare a theatrical dance piece which will be performed at the banquet later that evening. Even if you choose not to perform, this session will still be a fun way to spend the day.

Additional session information will be announced closer to the conference.

Siblings ages 7 to 14

We have some fun off site activities planned for our sibling group this year! Specific details will be announced closer to the conference.

Dinner and the Buddy Ball!

Our event will end with dinner, entertainment, and dancing at the Buddy Ball!



WyDSA Respite Policy

The respite staff of the Wyoming Down Syndrome Association (WyDSA) are excited to spend time with your children so that you can take advantage of the educational and networking opportunities presented at the conference. In order to ensure the safety of your children and meet our insurance requirements, the following policy is in effect while your child is in our care.

WyDSA staff will not take your child to the restroom or change diapers. If these services are needed, we will bring your child to you so that you may assist them.

Although the children's sessions are designed for a specific age group, WyDSA staff reserve the right to move your child to a different session if we feel they will enjoy it more or are having difficulty in the session they are currently attending.

If your child is unhappy and continually trying to leave the room to find you, we will bring him/her to you. At any point, we will be glad to have them join us again, but we value their happiness over keeping them in their session.

We want everyone to have fun! We have many planned activities to keep children engaged and active. We also want everyone to be safe. If your child is presenting difficult behavior, we will bring them to you.

The Family Conference is very family-friendly. Our presenters are expecting that children will come and go from the sessions, so please feel free to move around to do what you need to do during the sessions.

Snacks will be served during the conference, so please let us know if your child(ren) have any dietary requirements.



Room Information

There is no registration fee for the conference, and meals are provided free of charge all day Saturday.

There are a limited number of grants available to help with the cost of travel and hotel rooms. For more information contact James Mauk at 307-742-6641 or outreach@arkrs.org

All event activities will take place at the Cooper Center for Creative Arts as well as the Center for Professional Development, in Laramie, Wyoming. WyDSA has held a block of rooms at Quality Inn for Friday and Saturday which are available on a first come first serve basis. The cost of each room is \$107.00 a night plus tax. When making your reservation please ask for the Wyoming Down Syndrome Association block.

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/IB01E4>

Laramie has a large range of other hotels available to meet specific requirements. None of which are more than 5 miles from the Cooper Center.

Please complete, detach, and send the registration forms to:

WyDSA
1150 N. 3rd St.
Laramie, WY 82072

You can print the registration forms at our website:

www.wydsa.org

You can also submit your registration information electronically to:

outreach@arkrs.org

If you have any questions about conference registration contact:

James Mauk
307-742-6641
outreach@arkrs.org



**WYOMING
BUDDYWALK®**

national down syndrome society®

EDUCATE | ADVOCATE | CELEBRATE

Save the date!
2024 Wyoming Buddy Walk
Saturday, September 7th
Washington Park in Laramie, WY

We need your help!

Over the past 18 years, the Wyoming Buddy Walk® has become a day full of fun, family, and celebration of the contributions that people with Down syndrome make in their communities and all around our state. The Wyoming Down Syndrome Association also relies on the annual Wyoming Buddy Walk® to provide the funding we use to implement great projects like the annual Family Conference, distributing information and resources to families, celebrating World Down Syndrome Day, and funding the walk itself.

Please, help support the Wyoming Buddy Walk® and the projects that it funds, including this conference, by seeking sponsorships and donations within your community. We know how hard it is to ask but we have to do this together. If you are willing help, just let us know how we can support you. We have a great sponsorship packet you can use and we can answer any questions you or your potential sponsor may have.



WYOMING BUDDYWALK®

national down syndrome society®

EDUCATE | ADVOCATE | CELEBRATE



WyDSA is able to provide the Family Conference each year at no cost to the families because of the generosity of the sponsors and participants of the Wyoming Buddy Walk. The money raised each year is used to fund all of WyDSA's projects including the Family Conference, the Buddy Boxes, a yearly outreach program, and many other one time and on going projects.



2024 WyDSA Sponsors

WyDSA

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contact us!

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