

## January 08, 2024 – Living in a Neurodiverse World: Creating and supporting meaningful relationships



The concept of neurodiversity refers to the natural variations in cognitive, social, and sensory functioning that differ from the majority of the general population. Perceptions of autism and other neurodiverse conditions are shifting away from a pure impairment view to one that acknowledges

differences, of which there are both strengths and challenges. As the neurodiversity paradigm continues to gain momentum and autistic self-advocates provide a voice for their community, how we live and work should adapt to create supportive environments allowing all members of our communities to thrive. This presentation will explore individual nervous systems, modes of communication, and learning styles, and how these can inform the way we include autistic individuals using a respectful, strengths-based approach.

### Lindsay Thelin Wagner, MOT, OTR



Lindsay Thelin Wagner, MOT, OTR is an occupational therapist who has been practicing in the field of autism for 18 years. She is currently the Director of Neurodiversity and Community Inclusion at the League School of Greater Boston. Since joining the League School in 2007, Lindsay has led the program's implementation of the SCERTS® Model, an educational framework that engages the involvement of the multidisciplinary team to coordinate programming

targeting social, emotional and educational needs of each individual student. She consults to local organizations and school districts on autism education and neurodiversity-affirming practices. Lindsay holds a Master's of Occupational Therapy degree from the University of Pittsburgh and is certified as an Autism Spectrum Disorder Clinical Specialist.