

SENSORY INTEGRATION PRESENTER BIOS

Jamie Fleming

Jamie has been practicing as an occupational therapist for 19 years in a variety of pediatric settings, including home-based Early Intervention, preschool classrooms, acute care hospitals, out-patient facilities, and as a member of a feeding clinic. She currently contracts with Pediatric Therapy Professionals, Inc. to provide Early Intervention services to children ages birth to three years old. Throughout her career, Jamie has specialized in both sensory processing and feeding. She is certified in Therapeutic Listening, Infant Massage, the SIPT (Sensory Integration and Praxis Test), and has attended training for the SOS (Sequential Oral Sensory) Approach to Feeding. Jamie lives with her husband, Eric, and two children, Noah and Annie. Jamie and Eric adopted their two children from the foster care system in November 2009.

Meghan DeMarion, MSW,

Meghan DeMarion is a social worker who has established herself in her work with families and children from hard places. Meghan has conducted and presented research regarding youth with disabilities in the child welfare system at both the state and local level. Meghan is a Program Supervisor for TRAC Services for Families. During her time at TRAC, she has presented at local, state, national and international forums on a variety of topics including: trauma, attachment, child development, neurobiology, international adoption and matters regarding youth in care and child permanency. Her work regarding sensory integration has been requested on a national level through workshops and publications.

Dana Ernest Johnson, M.D.

Dana Ernest Johnson, M.D., Ph.D. graduated from North Park College in 1970 and the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1975. He completed his pediatric internship and residency training and his fellowship in neonatology (newborn intensive care) at the University of Minnesota where he also received his Ph.D. in Anatomy in 1983. Currently, he is Professor of Pediatrics, member and former Director of the Division of Neonatology and a member of the faculty in the Global Pediatrics Program at the University of Minnesota. In 1986 he founded the International Adoption Clinic that has become the largest adoption-related medical program in the world. Over the past twenty-two years, information gathered through this clinic on the medical status of over 25,000 children placed for adoption from dozens of countries and a wide variety of living conditions has helped established the field of adoption medicine. Dr. Johnson's research focuses on the short- and long-term effects of early childhood deprivation on child health and development. Ongoing research projects include the use of orphanage intervention programs to ameliorate the negative effects of long-term institutionalization, the effects of an institutional vs. foster care environment on growth and development, the long-term outcome of international adoptees in the United States and the

phenomenon of post-arrival “catch-up” growth in stunted post-institutionalized adoptees. Dr. Johnson serves on the Editorial Boards of *Adoption Quarterly* and *Adoptive Families Magazine*, is a Senior Research Fellow in the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute and has authored over 200 journal articles, book chapters and abstracts. He has received the *Distinguished Service Award* from the Joint Council for International Children’s Services, the *Friend of Children Award* from the North American Council on Adoptable Children and the *Harry Holt Award* on the 50th Anniversary of Holt International Family Services.

Terri DeMarco

Terri and her husband are the adoptive parents to five children, two of which are kin. Terri and her husband started this journey as relatives, knowing little about needs of children who have experienced trauma, separation or loss. They later opened up their home to a sibling group of three, two of whom came with sensory integration issues. Several of their children had moderate to severe behavioral issues which had to be managed in the home.

Terri and her husband spent years educating themselves and getting involved in the foster/adoption community. They learned over the years how to control their home environment and manage their own regulation to provide a safe and nurturing home for their children. Terri spent a year closely working with a therapist to identify how she could meet her children’s sensory integration needs.

Terri has been trained in TBRI and facilitates a foster/adoption support group at her church in Orlando Florida helping other parents learn techniques that help to moderate children’s behaviors and prevent them from escalating.