# Unlocking Potential: Exploring the Benefits of DIR Floortime for Parents, Children and Caregivers

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## Welcome and Objectives



Objective #1: Seeing DIR Floortime as an overall framework and intervention

Objective #2: Understanding some of the benefits of DIR Floortime

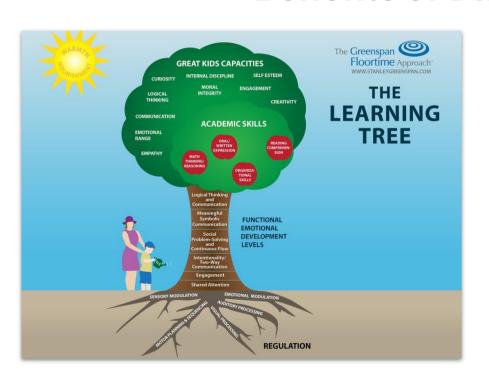
Objective #3: Gaining some practical information to start your DIR Floortime journey

## **Understanding DIR Floortime**



- Can apply the framework/principles of DIR in any context
  - o <u>D</u>evelopmental
  - Individual Differences
  - o <u>R</u>elationship
- DIR Floortime as an intervention is:
  - o Play-based
  - o Child-led
  - Not specific to any one therapy approach
  - More about letting go than actually learning any 'technique'

#### **Benefits of DIR Floortime**



- Enhances emotional regulation and social skills including communication
- Strengthens relationships between caregivers and children
- Supports overall development and learning

## **How DIR Floortime Helps Caregivers**



- Provides tools for meaningful communication
- Reduces stress and creates opportunities for joy
- Empowers caregivers as anyone can do this

#### **DIR Floortime Stories**



- Balloons can talk
- Hide and seek teaches a smile better than therapy can
- Imaginary fairy homes in the sky empowers and helps overcome anxiety

# Tips for Trying the DIR Floortime Approach



- Child-led play.....not the same as letting children do whatever they want!
- Pay attention to sensory needs and provide support
- Watching, Waiting and Wondering
- Play through daily routines
- Try 20 minutes a week!

## **Conclusion and Next Steps**



#### Take aways:

- DIR Floortime is a framework <u>and</u> an intervention
- DIR Floortime can support all kinds of learning
- If it's not fun, it's not Floortime!

#### Next steps:

- affectautism.com
- ICDL for DIR Floortime courses www.icdl.com