

Family Conference 2021

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – Rick Lavoie- “Last one picked, First one picked on...”

Ten ways that parents and teachers can improve kids’ social skills



In addition to academic failure, many children with learning disabilities also experience social isolation and rejection. Current research indicates that social deficits and failure are connected directly to the weaknesses that cause academic challenges (faulty memory, disinhibition, temporal difficulties, impulsivity, etc).

This seminar will explore and explain the connection between learning disorders and social competence and offer specific strategies that can be used to teach friendship skills to children and youth with special needs.

Rick Lavoie served as an administrator of residential programs for children with special needs for 30 years. He holds three degrees in Special Education and holds two Honorary Doctorates in Education from the University of Massachusetts (2003) and Mitchell College (CT – 2007). He has served as a visiting lecturer at numerous universities including Syracuse, Harvard, Manhattanville College, University of Alabama, University of Melbourne and Georgetown. His numerous national television appearances include The TODAY Show, CBS Morning Show, Good Morning America, ABC Evening News, and Walt Disney Presents.

Rick is the author of the book *It’s So Much Work to Be Your Friend: Helping the Child with Learning Disabilities Find Social Success and The Motivation Breakthrough: Six Secrets to Turning On the Tuned Out Child*.

Most parents and professionals know Rick through his videos "How Difficult Can This Be? The F.A.T. City Workshop" one of the most

widely distributed films in the educational media.

Website: <https://www.ricklavoie.com/>