

# VIRTUAL

**DATE AND TIME**  
**Wed., April 1, 2026**  
6:30pm – 7:30pm

**REGISTER BY TUE.,  
MARCH 31, 2026**

**Register Online  
HERE**

**QUESTIONS?**  
Contact OTAC staff:  
[staff@otaonline.org](mailto:staff@otaonline.org) or  
toll-free (888) 686-3225



**FREE. EXCLUSIVELY FOR MEMBERS.**

## **A Neuro-Affirming Approach to Pediatric Occupational Therapy (1 PDU)**

*Presenters: Caitlin Loyd, MS, OTR/L, and Sara Wallace, MS, OTR/L*

This session will introduce a neurodiversity-affirming framework for pediatric occupational therapy practice. Participants will explore how this lens influences interpretation of regulation, participation, and environmental fit, and how it shapes clinical decision-making and goal development across pediatric settings. A clinical case example will illustrate application in practice.

Participants will be able to:

- Define key terms within the neurodiversity paradigm, including neurodiversity, neurotypical, neurodivergent, neuro-affirming, and neuro-normative.
- Identify at least two ways a neurodiversity-affirming approach influences clinical decision-making in pediatric occupational therapy.
- Reframe a pediatric occupational therapy goal using a neurodiversity-affirming lens.
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**Registration fees: Complimentary and exclusive for OTAC members only**



**Caitlin Loyd, MS, OTR/L**, is a pediatric occupational therapy practitioner serving children in the greater Sacramento area and across California via telehealth. As a late-diagnosed autistic adult, she brings a neuro-affirming, child-centered approach rooted in safety, trust, and honoring each child's unique strengths and support needs.



**Sara Wallace, MS, OTR/L**, is a pediatric occupational therapy practitioner serving families in the greater Los Angeles and San Bernardino areas and throughout California via telehealth. She uses child-led, neurodiversity-affirming, strengths-based care informed by lived experience to empower children and families to build confidence, regulation, and meaningful participation in daily life.

## ABOUT SPECIAL TOPIC FORUMS

**Why OTAC Special Topic Forums?** To support OTAC Core Value 7 – Professional Development: To provide quality education and resources to advance the knowledge, skills, and continued competence of occupational therapy practitioners.

### Professional Development Units (PDUs)

PDUs will be entered into your OTAC profile.

**To earn PDUs, registrants must complete the post event survey that is emailed out within one week following the event.**

### Event Disclaimer

This event is sponsored by OTAC for the purpose of professional development. The material presented is not intended to represent the only or the best methods appropriate for the occupational therapy and/or medical condition, or professional development issues being discussed, but rather is intended to present the opinions of the presenters, which may be helpful to other health care professionals at arriving at their own conclusions and consequent application. Attendees participating in this professional development education program do so with the full knowledge that they waive any claim they may have against OTAC and its representatives for reliance on any information presented during this educational event.

[Click here for OTAC's complete disclaimer/terms. You must agree to these disclaimers/terms. Please don't register if you do not.](#)

**About OTAC.** OTAC is a nonprofit, 501c6. This means that end-of-year net revenue is retained for operations and benefit of the members and is not distributed to private owners. It is governed by an elected, noncompensated Board of Directors and hires a professional association management team.

**OTAC Mission Statement.** OTAC is the collective voice that serves, promotes, and supports the profession of occupational therapy and its practitioners.

**FIND OTHER SPECIAL TOPIC FORUMS, EDUCATION PASSPORT EVENTS, and SYMPOSIA [HERE](#) THROUGH OUR ONLINE EVENTS CALENDAR**

**Submit a proposal [HERE](#) for OTAC's 2026 Annual Conference & Innovation Expo and help us celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

**Be A Conference  
PRESENTER**

**Submit a proposal:  
Session or poster presentation**

**Deadline to submit:  
MAY 4, 2026**

**NOV.  
5-8,  
2026.**

**OTAC 2026  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE  
& EXPO  
PASADENA  
NOVEMBER 5-8**