Open Conversation About Neurodivergence

2027 BCMEA Roundtable

Hosted by Jamie Lee

Today's Agenda

1 ..... What is Neurodiversity?
2 ..... Today's Topics
3 ..... Topic #1
4 ..... Topic #2
5 ..... Topic #3
6 ..... Topic #4
7 ..... Resources

What is Neurodiversity?

- **A movement started in the 90s**
  - Not a medical term.
  - Focus on Differences instead of Deficit or Disorder.

- **Big umbrella term**
  - ASD, ADHD, OCD, Dyslexia, etc.
  - Every person has a different experience even within the same diagnosis.

- **Part of evolution traits, measured by human social standards**
  - Studies suggest neurodiversity is a byproduct of brain expansion. Animals also exhibit neurodivergent traits.
  - Has a strong genetic basis.

What is Neurodiversity?

- **It's not a new thing!**
  - There have always been neurodivergent people in history in every culture.
  - **Hunter Gatherer Era:** risk detection, craftsmanship, animal care, spiritual roles.
  - **Modern Era:** Emily Dickinson (sensory), Albert Einstein (intense focus and inattentiveness), Mozart (restless, high impulsivity).

- **But we are new to talking about it**
  - According to CDC, 1 in 31 children are identified to be autistic in 2022. 20 years ago, the figure was 1 in 150. Similar trends also show in other neurodivergent conditions.
  - Accessibility is for everyone and it starts with destigmatizing, sharing experiences and tips.

Today's Topics

1. How's it going?
2. Diagnosis
3. In the classroom
4. Tips and Tricks

- ❏ Each Topic will get 10 minutes to discuss!
- ❏ Please raise your hand if you'd like to speak!
- ❏ Conversations don't leave this room!

Topic #1: How's it going?

Topic #2: Diagnosis

Topic #3: In the classroom

Topic #4: Tips and Tricks

Resources

- Autistic SPACE A Framework For Inclusive Education - Originally developed by Dr. Mary Doherty for medical professionals, adapted by Maureen Bennie specifically for education setting.

- ADHD Resources for children, youth, and families - Made by Vancouver Coastal Health.

- Intro to Neuroinclusive Classrooms - Made by Aide Canada, a government funded resources site. They have a whole education section!

- Canada's National Autism Strategy - Federal public health framework for autism spectrum disorder.