

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. David Anthony Palmer, Ed.D.
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Objective: Dedicated to advancing inclusive educational environments that ensure the thriving and growth of every child, particularly those with developmental diversity. Bring three decades of experience in education, including a pioneering role as Founder and Director of Inclusion Matters Education Services. Combine professional expertise with personal dedication as a father to six neurodivergent children, underpinned by a robust academic and consulting foundation, including an Ed.D. in Special Education. Committed to empowering educators, parents, and institutions with innovative support systems, evidence-based strategies, and comprehensive training programs. Aim to lead a movement towards a more inclusive society by:

- Delivering impactful consultations, workshops, and collaborative projects.
- Championing diversity and empathy within educational practices.
- Equipping stakeholders with the knowledge and skills to support developmentally diverse students.
- Fostering environments where all students can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Professional Summary: With nearly three decades of outstanding experience in the education sector, Dr. Palmer has been a high school science teacher, established and managed a K-8 private school as principal, worked as a Learning Needs Specialist at a K-12 private institution, and currently serves as an educational specialist at a K-5 public school. He is the founder and director of Inclusion Matters Education Services, which provides impactful services to empower parents and teachers in supporting developmentally diverse children at home and school. As a doting father of six children, including five who are adopted and neurodivergent, and an individual with ADHD, Dr. Palmer passionately fosters inclusive learning environments so that all students can grow resilient and thrive. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Palmer in our educational community; he is knowledgeable and committed. His personal and professional experience and expertise will undoubtedly bring about world-changing understanding, empathy, and action. This is because he deeply believes that everyone matters and that everyone should be included and grow, learn, and thrive to become the best they can be.

Education/Training:

- Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on Special Education, Liberty University, 2022
- ADHD-Certified Educator, Evergreen Certifications (*817063, exp. 1/25*)
- Certified Autism Informed Professional, Evergreen Certifications (*477635, exp. 8/24*)
- Certified Trauma-Informed Professional, Evergreen Certifications (*976999, exp. 7/24*)

Professional Experience:

- **Educational Specialist, Ronald Reagan Elementary School, DSUSD, 2023-Present**
 - a. Creates, implements, and conducts meetings for IEPs for 4th/5th students with disabilities.
 - b. Spearheads initiatives to support neurodivergent students, incorporating evidence-based strategies to enhance their educational outcomes.
 - c. Collaborates with educators to develop inclusive classroom practices and individualized support plans.
 - d. Facilitates professional development workshops on neurodiversity and inclusive education for staff.
- **Founder and Director, Inclusion Matters Education Services, 2022-Present**
 - a. Launched a pioneering service focused on empowering educators and parents of developmentally diverse children through coaching, consultations, and training.
 - b. Developed and delivered online courses and workshops on inclusive practices, IEP/504 consultations, and trauma-informed education.
 - c. Successfully established partnerships with private practices, schools, and districts to promote inclusive education and support for neurodivergent students.
- **Learning Needs Specialist and Program Director, Desert Christian Academy, Bermuda Dunes, CA, 2021-2023**
 - a. Designed and led a comprehensive support program tailored for private school K-12 students with diverse learning needs, significantly enhancing academic, emotional, and social outcomes.
 - b. Implemented school-wide assessments and plans to identify students' unique learning needs, resulting in targeted interventions.
 - c. Mentored educators and provided professional development on differentiating instruction and incorporating strength-based approaches to support all learners.

- **Educational Consultant, NWEA, 2022-2023**
 - a. Advised educational institutions/districts on best practices for using assessment tools to support student growth and learning outcomes in mathematics.
 - b. Collaborated with school leaders to integrate assessment insights into curriculum development and instructional strategies.

- **High School Science Teacher, Desert Christian Academy, Bermuda Dunes, CA, 2011-2020**
 - a. Engaged students through innovative, inquiry-based science instruction, fostering a passion for learning and scientific exploration.
 - b. Integrated technology and hands-on experiments to accommodate diverse learning styles, resulting in higher student engagement and achievement.
 - c. Created a unified high school science curriculum in line with NGSS.

- **College Math Professor, Santa Barbara Business College, 2013-2014**
 - a. Taught various math courses, employing various instructional strategies to support adult learners with diverse educational backgrounds.
 - b. Provided individualized support and tutoring, significantly improving student outcomes in challenging courses.

- **Founder and Principal, Grace Academy, Indio, CA, 1999-2003**
 - a. Established and led a K-8 private school focusing on inclusive education, setting the foundation for a supportive and diverse learning environment.
 - b. Oversaw all aspects of school operations, from curriculum development to teacher training, budgeting, and student enrollment.
 - c. Created a community-engaged learning environment, fostering partnerships with parents and local organizations to support student growth and school initiatives.

Recent Presentations:

- "Supporting Children in Times of Stress and Trauma," Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities Conference, April 2023
- "Engaging with Empathy: Supporting Others with Authentic Compassion," NAMI Conference, June 2023.
- "Empathy Unleashed: Transform Lives with Authentic Compassion in Educational Therapy," Association of Educational Therapists Annual Conference, November 2023.

Awards and Honors:

- Liberty University School of Education 2022 Outstanding Applied Research Award

Professional Affiliations and Memberships:

- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Member, 2019-Present
- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), Member, 2019-Present
- Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD), Member, 2022-Present
- National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), Member, 2022-Present
- Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA), Member, 2022-Present
- Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA), Member, 2022-Present
- NAMI, Member, 2024-Present

Skills and Expertise:

- **Developmental Diversity Coaching:** Dr. Palmer is an expert in coaching parents and teachers on effective strategies for raising, supporting, and teaching developmentally diverse children both at home and in the classroom. His approach integrates personalized support with evidence-based practices to enhance the learning and well-being of neurodivergent students.
- **IEP and 504 Plan Consultation:** With a wealth of experience in special education, Dr. Palmer offers specialized consultations for parents and schools on navigating and optimizing Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and 504 Plans. His expertise ensures that students receive the accommodations and support they need to succeed academically and socially.
- **Inclusive Environment Training:** Dr. Palmer leads comprehensive training sessions for school districts and educational institutions on creating and maintaining inclusive learning environments. This includes strategies for inclusive behavior management, special education curriculum development, and instruction tailored to meet the needs of developmentally diverse students.
- **Trauma-Informed Educational Practices:** Advocating for a trauma-aware approach in education, Dr. Palmer equips educators with the knowledge and tools to implement trauma-informed practices in their classrooms. His training focuses on creating safe and nurturing educational spaces that support the holistic development of every child.
- **Online Learning and Empowerment:** Dr. Palmer develops and delivers a range of online courses, webinars, and workshops designed to empower parents and educators in

supporting their developmentally diverse students. These digital resources provide accessible, in-depth guidance on various aspects of special education, inclusive practices, and the latest research in the field.

- **Collaborative Educational Consultant:** Leveraging his extensive background in special education and inclusive practices, Dr. Palmer collaborates closely with educators, schools, and districts. He provides expert advice and practical solutions for integrating inclusive and supportive strategies into everyday teaching and learning processes.
- **Advocacy and Policy Development:** A dedicated advocate for the rights of neurodivergent students, Dr. Palmer contributes to policy development efforts to enhance educational equity and access. His expertise informs policies supporting diverse learning needs, ensuring all students can thrive in an inclusive educational system.

Continuing Education and Training:

- "The Key to Autism: Integrating Brain Development with Practical Strategies for Treatment of Children and Adolescents"
- "Executive Function Mastery Course: Evidence-Based Strategies to Improve Attention, Memory & Self-Regulation"
- "2023 Autism Symposium: What's New & What's Next in Treating Clients on the Spectrum"
- "ADHD Certification Course: What's New & What's Next in Supporting Neurodiverse Clients"
- Janina Fisher's "Trauma Treatment Certification Training (CCTP): The Latest Advances and Proven Techniques to Resolve Deeply Held Trauma"

Professional References:

- Mark Baldwin, M.A., Principal, Ronald Reagan Elementary School Palm Desert, CA
Phone: 760-772-0456
- Cynthia Moses, M.Ed., PCET Integrated Learning Institute Palm Desert, CA
Phone: 760- 218-9773
- Beth Aune, OTR/L Owner and Therapist, Desert Occupational Therapy for Kids Palm Desert, CA Phone: 760-772-2838