Tara Wagner 
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Helping Hand ABA Services, LLC

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Behavior Specialist, Inclusion Specialist, Autism Advocate, Author

Breakout 2
Is it Sensory or Behavior?
How do you determine whether the behavior you are observing/demonstrating provides purely sensory input or whether there are other purposes involved?

Participants will:
- Explore the functions that "atypical" behavior may serve
- Discuss when it is appropriate to intervene
- And when it is appropriate to promote acceptance and self advocacy.

Tara Wagner MS, BCBA, LBA has worked with and on behalf of children with autism for over 25 years. She fulfilled positions in special education from 1:1 aide to Education Director and has been a Board Certified Behavior Analyst since 2006. For the past 4 years, Tara has consulted with nonpublic schools and public school systems and supervised home, clinic, and school based insurance funded ABA services through her company, Helping Hand ABA Services, LLC. Tara thrives on using behavior analytic principles to develop socially relevant skills in learners with autism and the adults who support their development.

Joy F Johnson, M.Ed, M.S. I am a Behavior Specialist, Inclusion Specialist, and Autism Advocate who partners with organizations, individuals, and families to improve the lives of those impacted by autism. After spending years working in clinical settings, non-profits, and schools, my experience enables me to truly serve and represent ASD community members in various contexts. I hold a Masters in education, a Masters in psychology with a specialization in ABA, and I am currently a PhD candidate. In addition to my extensive education professional experiences, I have a great deal personal experience. I am diagnosed with autism myself which provides me with a unique knowledge, perspective, and source of passion.