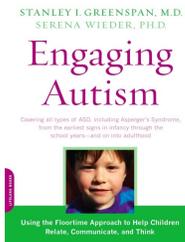


## What is our working Model?

All services provided through Real Connections are developed based on the work of Stanley Greenspan and Serena Wieder as discussed in their book, "Engaging Autism." Their model of therapy is based on years of clinical work and research with children and families.



## Why Choose this Treatment?

We treat the whole child as an individual functioning in the social-emotional context of our world. A program such as ours seeks to boost development and address behavioral problems by growing positive connections and organization in the child's brain. Thus, the child learns to think reflectively and base behaviors on their own desires and feelings rather than on repetitiously learned, non-reflective patterns of behavior. We work from a multi-disciplinary perspective considering functional language use, visual-spatial processing, auditory processing, and motor functioning. We provide comprehensive treatment plans, home recommendations and caregiver coaching to families.

### Find more information at:

[www.ICDL.com](http://www.ICDL.com) and  
[www.realconnectionsinstitute.com](http://www.realconnectionsinstitute.com)

**Real Connections** serves children of all ages with developmental challenges and their families. We specialize in preschool age children with newly diagnosed disorders of autism and adolescent children with ongoing communication difficulties.

**Real Connections' commitment** is to making "real" person-to-person connections with children and community partners. In each relationship we make, Real Connections' staff values excellence in our work, partnership building, recognition of individual's strengths and needs, intentional listening, ongoing learning, interdisciplinary collaboration and intercultural diversity. Each child we serve receives support for the development of their whole self through relationships addressing the child's unique strengths, challenges, and functional-emotional development.



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## Real Connections Child Development Institute San Diego

Supporting and partnering with families of children with special needs; through understanding, engagement, and relationships.

# Services

## ***Parent Coaching-***

We believe that all treatments should support the parent-child relationship as the primary agent for the child's progress. Parents receive direct, "live" training and education on the model and intervention developed by Stanley Greenspan and Serena Wieder. Training will allow parents to maximize their child's developmental growth through both daily interactions and parent/child intervention sessions.

## ***Home Based Intervention-***

Developmental specialists provide direct intervention in the child's natural environment. Interventions are tailored to the needs of the child and family and can include: Social facilitation, communication development, facilitation of emotional and sensory regulation, behavior management implementation, functional skill development and peer support.

## ***School Aid***

Developmental specialists act as a shadow within the school environment to help aid the child when working on skill development and peer support as needed.

## ***Intensive DIR Consultation***

3-hour intensive consultation that includes gaining knowledge on DIR, the process and what to expect, identifying individual differences and parent coaching and training.



Mara Goverman LCSW is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a certified as a DIR/Floortime Consultant. She has extensive experience with children and teens with autism. For her, the challenge of each child with autism lies in their

unique profile; the combination of sensory, cognitive, emotional and environmental factors that provide the clinician with a road map for treatment. All successful treatment for behavioral challenges must consider the child's profile, as well the child's developmental level. Understanding these factors is the basis for respecting a child's experience of the world. Mara's goal is not simply for a child to comply or "fit in." Ultimately, treatment is to help the child find meaning in the world and engage in relationships.

Mara participates in local community and statewide projects conducting teaching, research, and advocacy. She received her MSW from the West Virginia University School of Social Work. In addition to her DIR training, she is also a parent coach in the Positive Discipline Approach to Parenting, and has extensive experience in mindfulness and meditation techniques. She incorporates elements of other autism therapies in her treatment approach like Play Project and Miller Method. She currently works with Dr. Joshua Feder, MD, Child and Family Psychiatrist, in Solana Beach, California.

