

A Pivotal Year: Kindergarten's Important Role in Students' Education
GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery Challenge Series

October 25, 2022 | 3 pm – 4:30 pm ET

PRESENTER BIOS

MODERATOR



Laura Bornfreund
Senior Fellow and Advisor on Early & Elementary Education
New America
@lbornfreund

Laura Bornfreund is a senior fellow and advisor on early and elementary education with the Education Policy program at New America. Laura focuses on transforming kindergarten and promoting policy and practice that will strengthen the transition into kindergarten and the early grades of elementary school. Laura was director of Early & Elementary Education Policy at New America for nearly seven years. Before joining New America, Laura worked with several policy organizations in Washington, DC, including the Institute for Educational Leadership, The Forum for Education and Democracy, and Common Core (now Great Minds). Previously, Laura worked for the City of Orlando, FL, helping to implement its Parramore Kidz Zone, an initiative modeled on the Harlem Children's Zone. She began her career as a fourth-grade teacher in Orlando. Laura lives with her husband and two daughters in Florida.

PRESENTERS



Swati Adarkar
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Early Learning
United States Department of Education

Prior to joining the Department, Swati most recently served as the National Policy Director for Start Early. Previously, Swati was the Co-Founder and President & CEO of the Children's Institute in Oregon for 15 years, an early childhood policy and advocacy organization. Swati served on statewide advisory committees on early childhood for three Oregon governors. She provided the vision and leadership to launch and sustain the Early Works initiative which aligns birth to five services and supports with elementary school. For more than thirty years she has been a strong advocate for meeting the comprehensive needs of low-income children and families in Oregon and California and has a passion for ensuring the health and early school success of young children. Swati has served on the Advisory Boards of Attendance Works and the National P-3 Center. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from UCLA and a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School.



Ellen Galinsky
President, Families and Work Institute
Author, *Mind in the Making* and *The Breakthrough Years* (forthcoming)
@ellengalinsky

Ellen Galinsky, President and Co-Founder of Families and Work Institute (FWI) helped establish the field of work and family life while at Bank Street College of Education, where she was on the faculty for twenty-five years. Her more than forty-five books and reports include the best-selling *Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs*, *Ask the Children*, the now classic *The Six Stages of Parenthood* and the highly acclaimed *Workflex: The Essential Guide to Effective and Flexible Workplaces*. She has published over 125 articles in academic journals, books and magazines.



Ryan Lee-James, Ph.D., CCC-S
Chief Academic Officer, Atlanta Speech School
Director, Rollins Center for Language and Literacy & Its Cox Campus
@DrLeeJames

Dr. Ryan Lee-James is an ASHA certified speech-language pathologist, researcher, and published author with expertise in language development, language disorders, and literacy in the context of linguistic differences and socioeconomic disadvantage and believes that eventually, all children will be liberated through language and literacy. In her current role as the Chief Academic Officer and Director of the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at the Atlanta Speech School, she is responsible for developing, curating, and honing academic programming, for the Schools, programs and clinic that serve children who have hearing loss, speech-language delays, and dyslexia and translating that content to Cox Campus — a free, equity-based, online professional learning community. Through our Rollins Center, Dr. Lee-James is also responsible for overseeing and designing the implementation and evaluation of large-scale, community-based projects aimed at improving language and literacy outcome for children from birth through 3rd grade who have been disenfranchised by inequitable systems. Before joining the team at the Atlanta Speech School, she had the privilege of training and mentoring graduate level speech-language pathologists as a member of the Communication Sciences and Disorders faculty at a university in New York. Dr. Lee-James is honored to serve on numerous national and local boards to realize Literacy and Justice for All.