LEND Trainee Bio

As we grow our LEND program, we hope to build a network dedicated to understanding disability services. We believe that including your bios will help cultivate an interest in your work, leadership, and how you contribute to LEND. Prospective trainees, other LEND trainees, community organizations, clinics, etc., can develop their understanding of how other trainees have contributed to LEND and view our contributions in the field of disabilities. Feel free to provide as much or as little information as you are comfortable posting publicly. Remember, it is ok to keep this information very general. The website is illinoislend.org if you would like to view what former trainees have posted.

When complete, please upload to your summer assignments folder.

Name: Annie Kaplan

Discipline: Speech-Language Pathology

Past/current experiences working in the field of disabilities:

My passion for supporting individuals with disabilities began in middle school and has shaped every stage of my academic and professional life. I've worked as a special education teacher in both self-contained and inclusion settings, served as a registered behavior technician for children with autism, and am now a graduate student in speech-language pathology. My experiences span a wide range of settings and age groups, all grounded in building meaningful, trusting relationships.

Goals for your LEND training experience:

Through IL LEND, I hope to strengthen my leadership and advocacy skills so I can better support neurodiverse individuals and their families. I'm especially eager to collaborate across disciplines, learn from self-advocates, and deepen my understanding of family-centered and culturally responsive care.

What you wish to contribute, in the future, as an advocate/professional/family member in the field:

As a future speech-language pathologist, I hope to advocate for comprehensive, individualized support that reflects each client's strengths, needs, and lived experiences. I want to help improve the quality of services so that every child and family has the tools they need to thrive.