




To whom it may concern,

I am a graduate from the OTA program at Keiser University. I have been a student at Keiser since 2011, where I received my AA, BA, MA and I am currently finishing my dissertation to get my PhD. Coming out of school as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, I went into pediatrics where I soon saw the need for better education services that integrated Occupational and Speech Therapy. This need is what motivated me to go back to school. Keiser helped me to create a great degree in interdisciplinary studies that focused on psychology and education which further fueled my desire to continue my education.

Working in the private pediatrics sector I was fortunate to come across Joleen Fernald as a coworker, not knowing then that together we would embark in the great journey that is now Reconnections Education Center. At our school we use a unique and individualized approach to help each child reach their goals. We use the DIR Floortime model, Speech, and Occupational therapy to meet each child at the level they are at and build from that. Having a 1:3 teacher to student ratio we have witnessed great gains in the children enrolled in our school. I also continue to privately see children to provide Occupational Therapy. Keiser University and Mary Ralston changed the direction of my life at a time where I was unsure of what that looked like.

I started taking Keiser OTA students as soon as I was able to do so. I am now a Fieldwork site for the OTA program at keiser and try to pay it forward the best that I can. I have had many great students and have had the pleasure of personally hiring two of them to work at Reconnections Education Center. I hope to partner with the OTA program at Keiser for many years to come and I am grateful for the now professional relationship we have built.



Joleen R. Fernald, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL  
Lilibel A. Bernhardt, PhDc, Cota/L

---

2114 Seven Springs Blvd, Suite 200 New Port Richey, Florida 34655  
727-239-5371 (phone) 888-501-7019 (fax)  
[info@REConnectionsEducation.org](mailto:info@REConnectionsEducation.org) (email)  
[www.REConnectionsEducation.org](http://www.REConnectionsEducation.org)