







## About MERGE

#### **Access | Inclusion | Belonging**

- Empowering teams to foster inclusive environments.
- Providing consulting, training, and specialized support.
- Bridging gaps to foster an understanding of diverse abilities.
- Equipping leaders with tools for successful disability inclusion.



## Our Vision

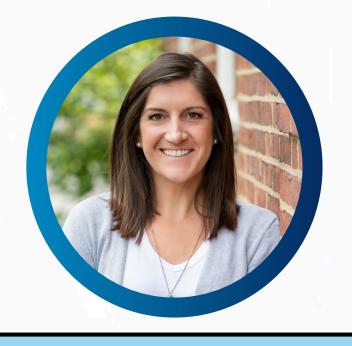
We envision a world where inclusion is the standard, not the exception.





## Meet Our Team





### **Lisa Drennan**FOUNDER & LEAD PRESENTER

outdoor enthusiast | proud mom | "grammy" to my grandpuppy | storytelling photographer | chocolate junkie | lover of all things Ireland | political advocate

- Over 40 years experience supporting individuals with disabilities to reach their wellness and enrichment goals
- Nationally recognized speaker at conferences and workshops specializing in disability inclusion
- Primary author of the Building Friendships Toolkit
- Certified Inclusivity Assessor, Inclusive Recreation Resource Center
- Current focus at MERGE:
  - Execute impactful trainings, fostering partnerships with nationwide organizations, driving the vision

#### Anna McKeown

#### **OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

plant lover | throw pillow addict | inclusive camp aficionado wanna be charcuterie board expert | girl mom | sour patch kid lover | life long skier

- Over 20 years experience supporting individuals with disabilities in recreation settings
- 15 years experience working in leadership roles within municipal recreation departments
- Regional speaker on topics of inclusive recreation
- Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, NCTRC
- Certified Park and Recreation Professional, NRPA
- Inclusive Recreation Specialist, National Inclusion Project
- Current focus at MERGE:
  - Outreach efforts, community connections, and local advocacy





# Comprehensive Inclusion Solutions

MERGE ABILITIES INCLUSION CONSULTING

- 1 Speaking Engagements
- 2 Hands on Trainings
- 3 Inclusion Supports and Tools
- 4 Community Inclusion Trainings





## Speaking Engagements

- Trusted speaker at conferences, workshops, and professional events
- Engaging sessions on topics surrounding inclusion
- Tailored presentations for diverse audiences across industries



#### All MERGE Trainings Include:



## Hands-On Trainings





#### **Preliminary Assessment**

Identify specific needs, challenges, and opportunities to create a targeted inclusion strategy.



#### Customization

Tailor training programs to fit your organization's unique requirements for practical, relevant solutions.



#### **Hands on Exercises**

Reinforce learning through interactive activities that apply inclusion strategies in real-world scenarios.



#### Leadership Team Implementation Plan

Train leadership to address challenges, develop solutions, and integrate inclusion into daily operations.



## Inclusion Supports and Tools

## Everything you need in one place.



INCLUSION BINDERS & SENSORY KITS





**CRISIS SUPPORT** 





INCLUSION STAFF COACHING



# Community Inclusion Trainings



Pre-Event Meetings



Marketing Materials



Alternative Funding Source Support

Engage the whole community (e.g., businesses, library, places of worship)

Foster open, safe dialogue

**Training** 

Goals

(2 hours)

Challenge disability misconceptions

Share actionable inclusion strategies

Build understanding across differences

## Testimonials





We vetted several companies to help us professionally train staff around youth with diverse abilities. I heard Lisa speak at a national conference and knew we had to get her to our organization. This past weekend she trained staff at four different locations at different times. Her energy is unmatched and she is a true subject matter expert in her field. I would highly recommend MERGE to any organization and we look forward to having her back soon.

Drew Hullinger
Vice President of Residential & Outdoor
Programs, YMCA of Metro Atlanta

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By far the **most valuable** part of our staff training this past summer was the MERGE training. Not only did it help **provide skills and perspectives** that the staff **utilized all summer** with our participants, but it has **carried over** into how we **approach all of our programming** as a Parks and Recreation Department! Several of our seasonal staff who work in schools during the school year expressed that the MERGE Training with Lisa was **more beneficial** than any of the inclusion training they've received through their school district. **Anyone working with children** and the public would **benefit** from Lisa's program!

Lindsay Warfield & Tiffany Quinn COLCHESTER PARK AND RECREATION, CT

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Lisa's inclusion training covered a wide range of topics to educate our staff on what it means to be an inclusive camp. They learned **tools for handling behavior** challenges and strategies for making camp as welcoming as possible for any camper who might need a little bit more support. By meeting with our leadership staff ahead of time, **she ensured the training was exactly what our camp staff needed.** 

Our staff have varied backgrounds and experience, whether new to working in the field or seasoned, Lisa's training met them where they were by exposing them to possible situations, offering solutions, and improving their comfort levels. I would recommend Lisa and MERGE to any camp looking to provide their staff more support before the beginning of the summer. She is incredibly adaptable, accommodating, and willing to work with anything you might need her support for.

Isabelle Letourneau
ACTON RECREATION DEPARTMENT
LEADERSHIP STAFF MA



# Reach out to book your exploratory meeting today!





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