

About the Authors



Larry I. Kleiman, M.A., CCC-SLP, received his undergraduate degree in psychology from U.C.L.A. While earning his degree, he first gained experience with individuals with developmental delays working with autistic children under the supervision of the late Dr. O. Ivar Lovaas. After earning his master's degree in communicative disorders from California State University at Northridge in 1980, he joined a private practice and pursued a career as a speech-language pathologist evaluating and treating individuals with developmental delay. Two-and-a-half years later he founded his own Southern California private practice, Larry Kleiman and Associates.

Along with his staff of speech-language pathologists and audiologists, he specializes in serving individuals of all ages with developmental delays in residential, community, and clinical settings, including program-development consultation, assessment, and therapeutic intervention. He continues to work in his private practice in Los Alamitos, California, serving children and adults diagnosed with a wide range of speech, language, and neurological disorders; however, a prime interest for more than 30 years has been individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Larry is the best-selling author of the *Functional Communication Profile* and *Functional Conversation Games*, as well as the *Functional Conversation* app and the *Wheel of Language*.

Paul F. Johnson, B.A., is a career educational-publishing professional and best-selling author. He has a keen interest in developing critical thinking, social language, and flexible communication skills in students of all ages. He is the author of many books, games, and interactive materials for individuals with language and developmental delays, including *Spotlight on Social Skills (Elementary and Adolescent)* and titles in the *Word Feast* and the *50 Quick-Play* series. Paul makes his home in the high elevation of Laramie, Wyoming, and enjoys hiking in the mountains, cooking, and spending time with his family.

Paul and Larry have been collaborating for over 20 years and both cherish the impacts their work may have made on therapists and students of all ages—something they hope to continue with ***Conversation Basics and Beyond***.