

## **AnaMaria Guevara's Professional Biography:**

AnaMaria Guevara, LCSW, **serves families and children with special needs**, particularly parents and siblings of children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). AnaMaria offers therapeutic and educational workshops for parents/caretakers with children recently diagnosed with ASD (“*ASD Parent: Autism Intervention*”), support groups for siblings of children with developmental disabilities (*Neurosibs Support Group*), individual therapy for children struggling with anxiety, depression, behavioral and social problems, and individual/couples counseling to parents of children with developmental disabilities.



AnaMaria earned her **BA in Psychology with an emphasis on Child Development in 1995 from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and her Masters in Clinical Social Work at San Francisco State University in 2000**. As an undergraduate, AnaMaria participated in school-based internships under the supervision of clinical child psychologist, Ralph Quinn, PhD, and worked at UCSC & the Allan Gutmacher Institute, Inc. as a postgraduate researcher with Developmental Psychologists, Catherine Cooper, PhD, and Margarita Azmitia, PhD.

AnaMaria began her career as a psychotherapist in Santa Cruz County providing counseling to traumatized children in a shelter for battered women. In 1998-2000, she facilitated support groups to incarcerated youth and provided intensive in-home therapeutic support to foster care children while working for San Mateo County Mental Health. She spent her next three years working for Santa Clara County, Dept. of Families and Children Services serving court-dependent children. From 2003-2009, AnaMaria worked for Santa Clara Valley, Health & Hospitals System, Family and Children Services Division, providing outpatient assessments and psychotherapy to children with complex emotional, social and behavioral difficulties.

AnaMaria maintains a private practice in Los Gatos. AnaMaria is the **parent of an 8 yr. old neurotypical son and a 4 yr. old son with mild autism**. She understands first hand the joys and sorrows of raising a child with special needs and the balancing act of remaining available to the whole family. AnaMaria has a thorough understanding of the required interdisciplinary care for children with developmental disabilities, and has completed training on multiple intervention models such as IPG, SCERTS, Social Thinking, etc.