

**AUTISM AND BEHAVIOR TRAINING ASSOCIATES
OVERVIEW AND DISCRIPTIONS OF
INSERVICE/STAFF DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS
Offered 2007-2008**

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders, An Overview of the Diagnosis, Implications on Learning and Strategies for Teaching:

Participants gain an understanding of the educational criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and the implications the disability has on a student's ability to learn and process information. The three primary areas of impairment will be discussed (communication, socialization and restricted patterns of behavior) as well as other areas which are shown to be affected in individuals on the autism spectrum. These areas include, sensory-motor processing, learning and cognition, executive functioning, theory of mind and perspective taking. This session is ideal for people who need an overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders and teaching strategies (administrators, psychologists, general education teachers, parents, paraprofessionals and any other professionals working with children on the autism spectrum). It is also a great introduction to the topics that will be covered in detail for the remainder of the training series. This is a full day session (7.5 hours). *Participation is limited to 75.

Positive Behavior Change Strategies for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders:

Participants will gain an understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and the implications the disability has on a student's behavior and ability to learn and process information. An overview of the functional analysis model for analyzing behavior problems will be discussed and some practical techniques for effecting behavior change will be covered. This session is ideal for teachers, parents and psychologists, or any other professionals working with children on the autism spectrum. This is a full day session (7.5 hours). Participation is limited to 50 per trainer.

Applied Behavior Analysis Methods for Skills Teaching in the Classroom:

This training provides participants with a general understanding of applied behavior analysis principles and how they can be applied to the teaching various skills to students in the school setting. The use of appropriate cues, prompting, reinforcement, error correction and generalization are covered. Participants are taught how to break down and analyze the skills they will be teaching, including how to determine any prerequisite skills. Various teaching methods including whole task, partial task and discrete trial teaching methods are covered as well as how to develop teaching plans and data collection methods. This session is ideal for teachers, speech therapists, psychologists, paraprofessionals and any other professionals working with children on the autism spectrum (or other developmental disabilities). This is a full day session (7.5 hours) and is limited to 25 participants per trainer.

Increasing the Functional Communication Skills of Students with Autism:

Participants will be introduced to the functional communication model and the analysis of verbal behavior. They will learn, using these models, how to more effectively teach communication skills to children with Autism. Expressive and receptive skills will be discussed and verbal and nonverbal methods will be addressed. Participants will get hands on practice implementing some of the strategies and will receive feedback from the trainer. This training is ideal for teachers, speech therapist and paraprofessionals working with students on the autism spectrum (or other developmental disabilities). This is a full day session (7.5 hours). Participation is limited to 25 per trainer.

The Structured Teaching Model, A System for Setting Up Effective Learning Environments for Children with ASD:

Participants will be taught how to effectively use visual strategies and structure in order to increase a student's willingness and ability to follow instructions, participate in independent work and complete complex routines within the school setting. The principles of TEACCH will be covered. Participants will get hands on practice implementing the methods and will receive feedback from the trainer. This session is ideal for teachers, speech therapists, psychologists, paraprofessionals and any other professionals working with children on the autism spectrum (or other developmental disabilities). This is a full day session (7.5 hours). Participation is limited to 25 per trainer.

Implementing the Discrete Trial Teaching Method with Students on the Autism Spectrum:

Participants will get an in depth training on the discrete trial teaching method. They will learn how to teach discrimination skills using this method as well as some techniques for increasing generalization of skills. Data collection as well as the general curriculum for early intervention (ages 3-6) will be covered. Participants will get hands on practice implementing discrete trials and will be provided with feedback from the trainer. This training is ideal for teachers and paraprofessionals working with students on the autism spectrum. This is a full day session (7.5 hours). Participation is limited to 25 per trainer.

Increasing Play and Social Understanding in Early Learners with Autism Spectrum Disorders (pre-k through age 7):

Participants will gain an understanding of social-cognitive impairments as observed in early learners and how these deficits impede the development of social relationships and play skills. Strategies for assessing these differences and increasing play (with objects and peers) will be presented. These strategies include, direct instruction, pivotal response training, integrated play groups, awareness activities and other strategies for relationship development. This is a full day session (7.5 hours). Participation is limited to 25 per trainer.

Understanding Social-Cognitive Impairments in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders – Ages 8 and older:

Participants will gain a greater understanding of the social-cognitive deficits seen in individuals with ASD and the behavioral excesses demonstrated as a result of these deficits. They will be taught how to more effectively assess for these deficits and how to teach the skills necessary for more social competence. Methods including the use of social stories, comic strip conversations and socialcognitive mapping will be covered. In addition, participants will learn the importance of peer and self awareness trainings. Hands on practice implementing the methods and feedback from the trainer will be provided. This training is ideal for teachers, speech therapist and paraprofessionals working with higher functioning students on the autism spectrum who are 8 years of age or older. This is a full day session (7.5 hours). Participation is limited to 25 per trainer.

Learning the R.O.P.E.S for Improved Executive Function:

Participants will gain an understanding of Executive Dysfunction and the skill deficits related in individuals with high functioning autism. They will learn how to teach strategies, provide appropriate structure and supports to assist individuals at gaining greater independence with organization, planning and prioritizing. Methods for teaching critical thinking skills and self management are also covered. This training is ideal for parents, psychologists, teachers, resource specialists, inclusion specialists, speech therapists and paraprofessionals supporting students with high functioning autism. This is a full day session (7.5 hours). Participation is limited to 25.

Strategies for Successful Inclusion Experiences for Children on the Autism Spectrum:

Participants will gain a greater understanding of autism and the specific differences that may affect the autistic child's ability to learn in an inclusive setting. Appropriate adaptations and accommodations will be presented. Participants will have an opportunity to develop some strategic accommodation plans for their target student(s) with feedback from the trainer. This training is ideal for general education teachers, resource specialists, inclusion specialists and paraprofessionals supporting students in inclusive settings. This is a full day session (7.5 hours). Participation is limited to 25.

Current Legal and Ethical Considerations in Educating Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders:

This training is designed to assist participants in understanding the current legal and ethical issues in the education of children with ASD. Components of effective and legally defensible programs for students with autism spectrum disorders will be covered including current research, best practice and case law/decisions. Parent perspectives and needs will also be discussed and presented by a parent panel (when available). This is a full day session (7.5 hours) and participation is limited to 25 per trainer.

Incorporating Sensory Activities into the Educational Programs of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders:

This is an interactive and energetic workshop focusing on sensory deficits often observed in children with autism. The workshop will provide the audience with foundational information for understanding the sensory systems and how dysfunction within each system can have an impact on children's academic, social, self-help and play skills. The audience will be trained, and actively participate in, sensory activities for the classroom, playground and home that help to promote appropriate sensory exploration and self-regulatory abilities. This training is ideal for teachers, paraprofessionals, parents and any other professionals working with students on the autism spectrum. This is a full day session (7.5 hours). Participation is limited to 25 per trainer.

Recommended Trainings for Assessment Teams:

The following trainings are suggested for educators responsible for assessment of students with ASD including Psychologists, Specialists, and Teachers. They are advanced level trainings which require participants to have a good understanding and working knowledge of ASD (i.e., possess the level 1 certification).

Comprehensive Psycho-Educational Assessment of Students with ASD:

The training includes methods for observation, direct assessment in all areas of suspected disability, probing for skill acquisition, and effective parent interviewing. Methods for achieving engagement in assessment tasks, increasing motivation to do assessment tasks, and obtaining reliable and valid indicators of skills and abilities are discussed and specific strategies are taught to participants. Establishing a positive and collaborative school-home relationship is critical in the early stages of assessment and therefore best practices in collaboration, building effective relationships and alliances with parents, and establishing the role of the school are also targeted in this training. In addition to specific assessment methods and data gathering techniques, the formation of an effective assessment team is described. Tools for establishing an Autism Assessment Team are also presented to support the implementation of best practices in assessment. Methods for reporting assessment results are also discussed, with concrete examples. Case studies will be utilized to illustrate effective and comprehensive assessments.

The training format includes direct teaching, practice of specific skills and strategies in pairs and small groups, use of video observation, and use of case studies to illustrate specific methods or strategies. Participants can expect to learn how to use the most current tests, procedures, and methods, and will develop a comprehensive approach to assessing students with autism that is aligned with both best practices, and legally defensible standards widely accepted in the autism community. This is a full day training (7.5 hours) and is limited to 25 participants.

Assessment of Social-Cognitive Impairments:

This training is designed to provide participants with an overview of standardized assessment tools and a detailed description of informal assessment strategies that provide additional, necessary information about social-cognitive skills and behavior in students with autism spectrum disorder. The training format includes direct instruction of methods used, video examples of each informal assessment strategy, and hands on practice with scoring case examples of students with varying degrees of social-cognitive impairments. This is a full day training (7.5 hours) and is limited to 25 participants.