



CENTER FOR AUTISM AND RELATED DISABILITIES

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

Autism Training Initiative

Are you puzzled by Autism Spectrum Disorders?
Need assistance with specific strategies? We can help!

The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities is a university affiliated resource center that brings research and practice together in community settings. CARD-Albany provides evidence-based training and support to families and professionals and advances knowledge and understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders. As part of our mission to bring research-based training to professionals, we are pleased to offer schools within Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Hamilton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, and Washington counties our Autism Training Initiative.

The Autism Training Initiative (ATI) is a training series that will provide training and support to school teams that are interested in ensuring students with an ASD have a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in their district. The overall goal is to empower school faculty and staff to become leaders by sharing information and imparting knowledge amongst colleagues.

This short-term training series includes two full days of training with hands-on technical assistance, as well as one full day of follow up support. The series will include two presentations chosen by your district, lasting approximately three hours each morning of the two full days. All staff interested in learning more about different aspects of Autism Spectrum Disorders is welcome to attend. The applied technical assistance will take place for approximately 2 hours each afternoon. The technical assistance consists of discussing individual students, observing these students in their classrooms or other educational setting, troubleshooting issues that may be preventing him or her from receiving their education in the Least Restrictive Environment possible, and developing plans of actions to build skills both for the student and the educational team. Staff participating in this part of the training should have direct roles either now or in the immediate future of the students discussed. The goal of each training is not only to allow school personnel to learn about strategies to teach children with ASD, but to also be able to apply specific strategies into meaningful practice.

ATI is intended for people who have a working knowledge of ASD. This particular training series goes beyond a general information session and presents more detailed information. At times, people do need more basic information about the core deficits of ASD. These personnel would benefit from information provided during conferences and/or introductory large group trainings. (Please contact CARD if you are interested in this type of assistance.)

Session Descriptions on the back.

College of Arts and Sciences • Department of Psychology
1400 Washington Avenue • Albany, NY 12222
(866) 442-2574 toll free • (518) 442-2574 phone • (518) 442-4834 fax

Autism Training Initiative Session Descriptions

Assessing Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders

The assessment of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders is a complex process encompassing many different domains within the child's life. This training provides an overview of the various areas of functioning that are examined in the assessment process, as well as assessment tools used in determining the individual child's level of functioning. Important considerations in assessing children with Autism Spectrum Disorders are also addressed.

Instructional Activities and Methods

The unique cognitive characteristics associated with autism spectrum disorders often affect learning style. This presentation will provide participants with methods to prioritize skills for instruction, ways to present the instruction, and tools to know whether the strategy is effective with the student. The presentation will provide participants with several ways of making their instruction more meaningful and engaging for all students, including students on the spectrum. Examples of ways assistance can be provided in the educational setting are provided.

Functional Behavior Assessment

Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBA's) allow teams to develop more effective and efficient behavior support plans for children with problem behaviors. The federal IDEA has included FBA as its preferred method of assessing problem behavior, as well as developing behavior support plans. This training discusses the theory and importance of FBA's, and how teams can use this process to gain a greater understanding of the functions of problem behaviors. The team is instructed on how to collect data in an efficient way in order to develop an effective Behavior Support Plan. Particular focus is placed on choosing data collection methods that are simple, yet provide descriptive and complete information.

Positive Behavior Support.

(A completed Functional Behavior Assessment is a MANDATORY prerequisite to this training)

Positive Behavior Support assists schools, families, and communities in designing effective environments that improve the fit or link between research-validated practices and the environments in which teaching and learning occurs. Attention is focused on creating and sustaining primary (school-wide), secondary (classroom), and tertiary (individual) systems of support that improve lifestyle results (personal, health, social, family, work, recreation) for all children and youth by making problem behavior less effective, efficient, and relevant, and desired behavior more functional. This training describes, and then breaks down the principles of Positive Behavior Support and assists school teams in taking data from completed Functional Behavior Assessments and creating Behavior Support Plans that assist children with autism spectrum disorders in participating as fully as possible in inclusive settings.

Peer Mediation/Social Interaction

All individuals with autism spectrum disorders present with challenges in reciprocal social interactions. This session will provide participants with an overview of different practices to teach and enhance social interaction skills with a concentration in approaches using "peer mediation" or training typical peers. Participants will receive information on peer mediation approaches that have empirical support and will be provided a set of steps to take to initiate the strategies.

Person Centered Planning

This workshop will introduce participants to the core principles and techniques of person centered planning. Participants will learn about the team based, ongoing problem solving process that allows for individuals to create a vision for his/her life. Conducting a Person Centered Plan coordinates supports around the life of an individual rather than around the needs of the system. Examples will be provided of how person centered services and supports have led to dramatic changes in the lives of people with severe and profound disability and their families.

Please call the number below for additional information about the Autism Training Initiative.

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