Adapting Teaching Materials and Strategies

**Training Description:** This two-hour training provides practical techniques to maximize the academic success of students with autism spectrum disorders in the classroom. The first part of the presentation focuses on the unique characteristics and learning styles of children with ASD. The second part of the presentation provides participants with a variety of adaptations for the classroom, the material, and the presentation of the curriculum.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. To understand the cognitive characteristics and associated learning styles common for children with ASD and to recognize the challenges that emerge with these unique characteristics.
2. To become familiar with multiple examples techniques to facilitate effective learning, including successful homework completion and test-taking support techniques.
3. To be able to describe and implement a self-guided learning system

**Target Audience:** This training has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for general and special education teachers, administrators, and in-home caregivers.

Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Brief Overview

**Training Description:** This two-hour training provides an introduction to the core and associated characteristics of autism spectrum disorders and how these characteristics manifest themselves within a learning environment. The training also covers a description of possible causes of autism spectrum disorders. Attention is given to understanding the current treatment methods, ranging from evidence-based strategies to the more controversial and alternative approaches.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. To understand the core and other associated characteristics of autism spectrum disorders.
2. To recognize possible causes of autism spectrum disorders.
3. To be familiar with evidence-based and non-evidence-based interventions used to treat autism spectrum disorders

**Target Audience:** This training has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for
general and special education teachers, educational support staff, pre-school and kindergarten teachers, support coordinators, in-home caregivers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech and language pathologists, and school administrators.

First Responders Autism Awareness Training

Training Description: Individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are 7 times more likely to come into contact with police than their typical peers; therefore, it is imperative that first responders be able to recognize persons with this disorder. This 2-hour training provides an introduction to the core and associated characteristics of ASD and how these characteristics may manifest within the community environment. This training also includes appropriate strategies for responding as well as methods for first responders and parents/caregivers to work together to keep individuals with ASD safe.

Learning Objectives:
1. To understand the core and associated characteristics of ASD
2. To be familiar with reasons a first responder may be called to a scene involving an individual with ASD
3. To learn strategies on how first responders and parents/caregivers can work together to keep individuals with ASD safe.

Target Audience: This training has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for police, EMS, firefighters and parents/caregivers.

Functional Behavior Assessment and Positive Behavior Support

Training Description: This two-hour training provides participants with a systematic strategy for assessing and understanding difficult behaviors in students with autism spectrum disorders in the classroom and other environments. Based on the assessment and understanding of causes of behavior problems, evidence-based strategies geared toward decreasing problem behaviors and increasing functional replacement behaviors are introduced.

Learning Objectives:
1. To understand why problem behaviors develop and what is maintaining them (i.e., functional assessment).
2. To become familiar with developing and implementing a behavior intervention plan.
3. To recognize strategies for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the behavior intervention plan.
**Target Audience:** This training has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for general and special education teachers, educational support staff, related-service providers (SLP, OT, PT, counselors, social workers and school psychologists), support coordinators, in-home caregivers, and school administrators.

**How to be an Effective Paraprofessional in the School Environment**

**Training Description:** Paraprofessionals play a crucial role in their daily work with students with autism spectrum disorders. Over the years, the duties of paraprofessionals have significantly increased and today they are facing many responsibilities. This 2-hour training provides the paraprofessional with the tools needed to successfully support students with autism spectrum disorders in the classroom. The core characteristics of autism spectrum disorders and effective educational supports are presented.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. To understand the core cognitive characteristics of children with autism spectrum disorders and to recognize the challenges emerging from these unique characteristics.
2. To be familiar with a wide variety of classroom supports, including successful behavioral support strategies.
3. To identify an effective and positive support style for the student, in contrast to problematic support strategies.

**Target Audience:** This training has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for educational support staff, other school personnel, related-service providers (SLP, OT, PT, counselors and social workers), in-home caregivers, and school administrators.

**Learning Better Ways to Cope: Teaching Individuals with ASD Skills to Replace Challenging Behaviors**

**Description:** The focus of this presentation will be on practical ways to teach coping skills to individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Specifically, techniques to assist with anxiety and problem-solving difficulties will be discussed. Emphasis will be placed on evidence-based strategies that can be taught and used in both the home and school environment.

**Training Objectives:**
1. Identify reasons why it might be appropriate to teach coping skills to individuals with ASD.
2. Describe different techniques to assist individuals on the spectrum with anxiety and problem-solving difficulties.
3. Identify/make at least one strategy that could be taught to your child and used in both a home and school environment

**Target Audience:** This training has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for educational support staff, other school personnel, related-service providers (SLP, OT, PT, counselors and social workers), in-home caregivers, and school administrators.

**Making it Work: Teaching Students with ASD Sustainable Skills that Translate Beyond the Classroom**

**Training Description:** In this 2 hour seminar, participants will learn to recognize the different ways to view challenging student behavior in order to target and remediate the cause. Professionals and family members will also learn interventions to support such skills as independence and coping in the classroom and home environment. These strategies are designed to increase life skills and support a positive quality of life for students with ASDs.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Understand what functional, sustainable skills are and why it is important to teach them.
2. Learn informal and formal ways to assess functional skills.
3. Identify strategies to teach students skills to cope with challenging contexts.
4. Develop a plan for systematically teaching functional skills to their students.

**Target Audience:** This training has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for educational support staff, other school personnel, related-service providers (SLP, OT, PT, counselors and social workers), in-home caregivers, and school administrators.

**Mealtime and Children with Autism**

**Training Description:** This two-hour training addresses the various eating problems found in children with autism spectrum disorders. The assessment of underlying or co-occurring medical issues is presented. The focus will be on behavioral and environmental problems that affect feeding and eating, and attention will be given to successful strategies for addressing problems in these areas.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. To understand the nature eating and feeding problems as well as factors influencing their development.
2. To become familiar with strategies for improving the eating habits of a child with an autism spectrum disorder.

**Target Audience:** This training has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for support coordinators and in-home caregivers and anyone interested in learning more about this topic.

**Setting the Stage: Creating Environments to Enhance Outcomes for Students with ASD**

**Training Description:** This seminar will discuss the impact that ASDs have on the entire educational community. School professionals and family members will learn how the characteristics of ASDs affect student learning. Participants will also learn about the role that the structure of the learning environment plays in ensuring student success as well as how quality communication between primary providers and the support team can positively impact students with ASDs and the educational community in which they learn.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. To learn the DSM 5 criteria
2. To become familiar with contextual fit and its impact on implementing a plan in regards to:
   - a. Student characteristics
   - b. Variables of individual team members
   - c. Environmental variables

**Target Audience:** This training has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for educational support staff, other school personnel, related-service providers (SLP, OT, PT, counselors and social workers), in-home caregivers, and school administrators.

**Supporting Individuals with ASD to Meet their Full Potential in Meaningful Employment**

**Description:** With the appropriate supports in place, individuals with ASD can have successful, meaningful employment where they are a true asset to their employer. However, at this time, many individuals with ASD are unemployed or underemployed and struggle with the social aspects of the workplace. Additionally, without a working knowledge of ASD characteristics and supports, co-workers of individuals with ASD may find that working with someone with ASD can be frustrating because they do not understand their differences and do not know how to support them. This short presentation briefly describes the definition, characteristics and misconceptions that are common to individuals with ASD, some of the challenges they may face in the workplace due to social deficits and suggestions and tips for working with individuals with ASD in the workplace so that they may reach their full potential.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Understand how the core and related characteristics of ASD may impact individuals in the work environment.

2. Discuss some of the life skills needed to be successful with social aspects of working with others.

3. Determine strategies to support and work with individuals with ASD in the workplace.

**Target Audience:** This training has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for co-workers and supervisors currently working with young adults with ASD.

**Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Classroom**

**Training Description:** Children with autism spectrum disorders need and deserve a carefully planned and highly structured learning environment. This two-hour training discusses the strengths and deficits that affect the learning of students with autism spectrum disorders. With these characteristics in mind, the participant will be introduced to effective environmental and organizational strategies for the classroom to help students become successful learners.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. To understand strengths and deficits that affect student learning.

2. To recognize environmental and organizational classroom supports that address student deficits, in order to facilitate success in the classroom.

3. To become familiar with skill-building strategies that teach students essential skills for successful classroom participation.

**Target Audience:** This training has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for general and special education teachers, educational support staff, related-service providers (SLP, OT, PT, counselors, social workers and school psychologists), support coordinators, in-home caregivers, and school administrators

**Thinking Differently: Executive Functioning and Learning Styles of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders**

**Description:** In this seminar, participants will learn to identify the executive function, central coherence and information processing challenges that are noticed in many learners with autism spectrum disorders. Discussion will focus on how these challenges can impact academic achievement and social success as well as teaching principles and strategies that parents, school
and community professionals can integrate into a variety of settings to develop appropriate skills for school-age individuals with ASD.

**Training Objectives:**
1. Describe latest research relevant to the way individuals with ASD learn and process information
2. State challenging behaviors that students may display related to how they differently process information and implications of these behaviors in the classroom.
3. Identify strategies that can be used to teach adaptive skills to replace the challenging behaviors.

**Target Audience:** This training has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for general and special education teachers, educational support staff, related-service providers (SLP, OT, PT, counselors, social workers and school psychologists), support coordinators, in-home caregivers, and school administrators

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**Thinking Differently: Social Cognition and Social Motivation of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders**

**Description:** In this 2 hour seminar, participants will learn about ongoing research regarding the way that individuals with ASD process social information and engage socially. Challenging behaviors that individuals may display related to how they process information differently will be discussed as well as implications that these behaviors have on learning. Intervention programs and strategies that are used to teach adaptive skills to replace the challenging behaviors will be presented.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Describe latest research relevant to the way individuals with ASD process social information and engage socially
2. State challenging behaviors that students may display related to how they differently process information and implications of these behaviors
3. Identify strategies that can be used to teach adaptive skills to replace the challenging behaviors.

**Target Audience:** This training has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for general and special education teachers, educational support staff, related-service providers (SLP, OT, PT, counselors, social workers and school psychologists), support coordinators, in-home caregivers, and school administrators
Waking Up to a Better Day

Training Description: The effects of prolonged sleep difficulties can have serious consequences not only to a child with an autism spectrum disorder, but to the entire family. This two-hour training covers the nature of sleep and common sleep problems. Attention will be given to effective interventions to improve even the most difficult sleep behavior.

Learning Objectives:
1. To understand the nature of sleep problems as well as factors influencing the development of sleep difficulties.
2. To become familiar with strategies to assess sleep problems.
3. To learn a variety of strategies for reducing sleep difficulties.

Target Audience: This training has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for support coordinators and in-home caregivers and anyone interested in learning more about this topic.