Trainings and Workshops

Adapting Teaching Materials and Strategies

Seminar Description: This two-hour seminar 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 autism spectrum disorder 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 seminar has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for general and special education teachers and administrators.

Asperger’s Syndrome

Seminar Description: This two-hour seminar provides an overview of proven and practical strategies to support students with Asperger’s syndrome in the classroom. Attention will also be given to the description of typical characteristics of a student with Asperger’s syndrome, and how these characteristics manifest themselves in everyday interactions with others.

Learning Objectives:

1. To understand the core and associated features of Asperger’s syndrome
2. To be familiar with wide variety of social and educational supports and interventions for students with Asperger’s disorder

Target Audience: This seminar 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), service coordinators, caregivers, school administrators, medical staff and anyone interested in learning more about this topic.

Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Brief Overview

Seminar Description: This two-hour seminar provides an introduction to the core and associated characteristics of autism spectrum disorders and how these characteristics manifest themselves within a learning environment. The seminar 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 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 seminar 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), service coordinators, caregivers, school administrators, medical staff, and anyone interested in learning more about this topic.

Best Practices in Positive Behavior Support

Seminar Description: A systematic strategy for assessing and understanding challenging behavior in children with autism spectrum disorders in the classroom and other environments is discussed. Based on the functional assessment and understanding of reasons of the problem behavior, evidence-based strategies toward preventing and decreasing problem behaviors as well as 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 identify effective and positive supports for the individual to develop a successful behavior repertoire allowing for appropriate functioning in the environment

Target Audience: This seminar 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), service coordinators, caregivers, and anyone interested in learning more about this topic.

Bus Drivers Autism Awareness

Seminar Description: School personnel often attest to the fact that many problems arise for a student with an autism spectrum disorder at the bus stop or on the bus. Bus drivers are faced with a difficult task at hand, driving the vehicle and handling emergencies while at the same time appropriately responding to children and their unique needs. This two-hour seminar provides bus drivers with an introduction to the core characteristics of autism spectrum disorders and how the characteristics manifest themselves while getting on and off the bus as well as during the trip. Attention is given to effective strategies bus drivers can utilize with all students as well as with students on the spectrum to ensure a positive and non-distracting driving environment.

Learning Objectives:

1. To understand the core and associated characteristics of autism spectrum disorder
2. To learn how the autism spectrum characteristics affect bus riding behavior
3. To identify a variety of evidence-based visual communication strategies, social skills techniques, and behavior supports

Target Audience: This seminar has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for bus drivers, school support staff, and anyone interested in learning more about this topic.
Effective Behavior Change for Individuals with Special Needs: Do’s and Don’ts

Seminar Description: This training describes common pitfalls teachers and other professionals interacting with individuals with special needs and caregivers experience when attempting to achieve positive behavior change with a focus on compliance. The training also addresses how to avoid these pitfalls and discusses essential cornerstones of behavior change such as relationship building and compliance development.

Learning Objectives:

1. To become familiar with the consequences of problem behavior in the long run.
2. To understand the factors which are influencing the problem behavior of individuals with special needs and to understand the characteristics of ineffective behavior change strategies.
3. To learn the implementation of two pivotal behavior change strategies, which build the foundation for successful skill and behavior development.
4. To effectively handle resistance or refusal in the classroom or in the home.

Target Audience: This seminar 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), service coordinators, caregivers, school administrators, and anyone interested in learning more about this topic.

Encouraging the Development of Social Skills in Children and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Seminar Description: Social Skills are increasingly viewed to be one of the most essential skills set to be developed for successful classroom participation as well as for building satisfying and rewarding relationships within and outside of the school environment. This two-hour seminar focuses on the description of the characteristics associated with autism spectrum disorder and its effects on social skill development. As each student experiences a unique set of social skill deficits, this presentation describes a variety of assessment tools helping with the identification of each student’s individual needs. The second part of the presentation focuses on the social skill development process and a large variety of evidence based tools and strategies are discussed.

Learning Objectives:

1. To understand the core and associated characteristics of autism spectrum disorder and how these characteristics effect social skill development
2. To be familiar with a variety of assessment tools
3. To identify several effective strategies for social skill development
4. To recognize and implement ready-and easy to use social skill development techniques

Target Audience: This seminar 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), service coordinators, caregivers, school administrators and anyone interested in learning more about this topic
First Responders Autism Awareness

Seminar 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 individuals with an autism spectrum disorder. This 2-hour seminar 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 autism spectrum disorder
3. To learn strategies on how first responders and parents/caregivers can work together to keep individuals with autism spectrum disorder safe

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

How to be an Effective Paraprofessional in the School Environment

Seminar 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 seminar 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 evidence based 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 seminar 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), and caregivers.

Mealtime and Children with Autism

Seminar Description: This two-hour seminar 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 research based strategies for addressing problems in these areas.
Learning Objectives:

1. To understand the nature of 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 seminar has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for service coordinators, support staff, medical staff, caregivers and anyone interested in learning more about this topic.

Strategies to Motivate: Using Positive Approaches to Teach Social, Academic, and Daily Living Skills to Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Seminar Description: Motivation has been found to be a critical area in teaching individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). This training will discuss the research and theories of motivation in individuals with ASD and effective ways to use reinforcement to motivate. Examples of evidence-based practices that help individuals with autism learn new skills through increasing motivation will be reviewed.

Learning Objectives:

1. To gain a better understanding of the theories and research on motivation in individuals with autism spectrum disorders
2. To understand principles of reinforcement and how the principles are used to motivate individuals with autism spectrum disorders
3. To recognize evidence-based practices and tools for increasing motivation in individuals with autism spectrum disorders in multiple settings

Target Audience: The seminar 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, caregivers, school administrators, and anyone interested in learning more about this topic.

Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Classroom

Seminar Description: Children with autism spectrum disorders need and deserve a carefully planned and highly structured learning environment. This two-hour seminar 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 evidence based 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 seminar 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), service coordinators, caregivers, and school administrators.
Supporting Middle and High School Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Classroom and other Environments

Seminar Description: A structured and well organized learning environment is essential for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. This two-hour seminar presents the core and related characteristics of autism spectrum disorders and their effect on the learning progress. The participant will be introduced to a large variety of research based learning supports as well as environmental and organizational strategies for the classroom to help students become successful learners. As this seminar focuses on middle and high school students, pivotal strategies for successful transition skills development will be presented.

Learning Objectives:
1. To understand strengths and deficits that affect student learning
2. To recognize environmental and organizational classroom supports for older students that address students deficits, in order to facilitate success in the classroom
3. To become familiar with skill-building strategies that teach students essential classroom participation, daily living and transitioning skills

Target Audience: This seminar 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), service coordinators, caregivers, and school administrators.

Thinking Differently: Better Understanding Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Classroom

Seminar Description: This training will help participants “step into the shoes” of students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The session will include research that highlights the way students with ASD may learn and think. Discussion will include social learning profiles of students with ASD and characteristics of ASD that impact students in the classroom. Practical strategies to use in the classroom will be discussed, with an emphasis on building social learning objectives into the curriculum.

Learning Objectives:
1. To gain a better understanding of the characteristics associated with autism spectrum disorders, particularly related to social learning
2. To become familiar with the ways autism spectrum disorder characteristics can impact a student in the classroom
3. To learn practical strategies to use in the classroom that take into account the unique profile of students with autism spectrum disorders

Target Audience: This seminar 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), and anyone interested in learning more about this topic.

Understanding Best Practices in the Treatment of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Seminar Description: A significant need exists for identifying and using evidence-based interventions for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders. Successful outcomes occur when research-based practices are designed to support the needs of individual students. This presentation will outline how best to identify, use, and evaluate effective interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorders.
Learning Objectives:

1. To become familiar with effective and valid interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorders

2. To deliver strategies for helping caregivers/professionals become better consumers of interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorders

3. To identify current best practices for individuals with autism spectrum disorders

Target Audience: This seminar has been designed as an intermediate course and is appropriate for general and special education teachers, social workers, school psychologists, school administrators, caregivers, medical staff and anyone interested in learning more about this topic.

Waking Up to a Better Day

Seminar 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 seminar covers the nature of sleep and common sleep problems. Attention will be given to effective evidence based 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 seminar has been designed as a basic course and is appropriate for service coordinators, medical and support staff, caregivers, and anyone interested in learning more about this topic.