



Little Friends Center for Autism Full and Half Day Training Descriptions

(Trainings can be adapted or combined for in-services for schools and agencies)

LEVEL 1 CORE AUTISM TRAINING

Title	Description	Presenter
Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders and Successful Treatment Strategies (3 hours)	Presentation discusses the diagnostic characteristics of autism and successful strategies to teach social and communication skills along with ways to deal with restricted interests and behavior problems. Other areas covered include current information on the causes of autism, prevalence statistics, co-existing conditions, resources and lifespan issues for individuals and their families.	Patti Boheme
Discrete Trial (Full Day)	Presentation will discuss Discrete Trial Format (DTF) to teach a variety of skills. DTF may be used to teach: social/play skills (i.e. imitative play, turn-taking and imitating peers), receptive and expressive language, self-help skills (i.e. toileting, dressing, and oral hygiene) and academics (i.e. matching identical items, identifying shapes, colors, letters and numbers). DTF should be customized to meet each child's needs and also allows for program modifications. DTF is highly structured, motivating and effective. Participants will practice using DTF to improve their own skills.	Lisa Cisek
Structured Teaching (Developed by TEACCH) (Full Day)	Presentation will discuss Structured Teaching which is a very effective system to teach individuals with autism/developmental disabilities independence and cognitive and functional skills through visual structured tasks and work stations. We will explain the step by step process of using structured teaching and demonstrate its effectiveness through video tapes and examples of visual teaching systems. Participants will practice the different stages of structured teaching and will also make and take home structured teaching systems.	Patti Boheme
Toilet Training: Using Visual Supports (2 hours)	This workshop will provide parents and professionals with strategies for developing a toilet training program for home or school settings. At the end of the workshop participants will know how to implement a toileting program. Specific topics that will be addressed include emotional, communicative and developmental issues, rewards, toileting chairs, toileting readiness, urine training, bowel training, and overcoming some of the most difficult problems when toilet training children with developmental disabilities. The Little Friends Visual Toilet Training program will also be reviewed.	Patti Boheme

Title	Description	Presenter
Characteristics and Behavioral Issues in Individuals with High Functioning (Asperger's Syndrome) (Full day)	Presenter will discuss the characteristics of individuals with High Functioning Autism formerly Asperger's Syndrome from a diagnostic and behavioral perspective. Presenter will discuss a range of behavior problems that are often seen with these individuals and strategies to prevent and change problem behavior. Presenter will cover ways to structure environments and present information to lower anxiety and facilitate better communication and understanding. Strategies to teach social understanding will also be covered.	Dr. Cynthia Brouillard
School Strategies for Children with Asperger's and High Functioning Autism	Presenter will discuss the characteristics seen in High Functioning Autism. The implications of these characteristics on the child's learning style and behavior will be reviewed as it relates to a classroom setting. Strategies to proactively structure such children to reduce difficulties and improve classroom functioning will be discussed. Intervention strategies will also be reviewed as it relates to behavior and social functioning.	Dr. Cynthia Brouillard
Communicative Functions of Behavior (2 hours)	Individuals on the autism spectrum and with other developmental disorders, often have difficulty communicating. For many individuals inappropriate behavior is a primary way to communicate their emotions, desires and needs. In this workshop, we will examine the various means and functions (the how's and whys) of behavioral communication, and how to shape behaviors into more effective communication.	Kathy Evangelista
Communication Training (3-4 hours)	This workshop will address utilizing pictures as a way to train functional communication skills. Participants will learn to teach children to be spontaneous when communicating, to discriminate between pictures, and expand the length and complexity of phrases and sentences. Various visual communication systems will be discussed including the use of choice boards, stop cards, and conversation boards. In addition, the six phases of PECS (the Picture Exchange Communication System) will be reviewed. Participants using PECS after this training should be under the supervision of professionals who have extensive training in PECS to further develop their skills and understanding. This training is not a substitute for the two-day PECS training workshop offered by Pyramid.	Kathy Evangelista
Visual Strategies (2 hours)	Individuals with autism often learn more effectively and improve their behavior when offered visual supports. This training will cover: using pictures to communicate, rule cards, different types of visual schedules, visual transition systems, tab systems for predictability and much more. Participants will come away with a better understanding of how to incorporate visual strategies throughout a person's day.	Kathy Evangelista

Title	Description	Presenter
Using the iPad with Individuals with Autism (2-3 hours)	Participants will learn to develop an iPad IPhoto system for communication, to teach skills, fun time, and to document an individual choices, needs, interests and aspects of their life. This training is for early intervention professionals, educators, parents, and adult providers. Participants will develop their own iPhoto albums that will include comprehensive visual and written visual teaching systems. Bring your IPAD, phone, or camera IF YOU HAVE ONE.	Carol Paske
Positive Proactive Programming for Individuals with Behavior Problems (3 hours)	Presentation will discuss principles of behavior management and how to develop positive proactive programs for individuals with behavior problems. Other areas covered will be how behavior issues impact staff, and how we can inadvertently reinforce negative behavior and ways to avoid this cycle. Also covered will be how the educational environment can help or negatively impact a student and tips for organizing a classroom. Strategies on how to develop effective reinforcement programs and schedules will be covered along with effective ways to increase appropriate behaviors and decrease inappropriate behaviors.	Patti Boheme
Working with Parents for Success (2 hours)	This training will help staff to better understand the many challenges parents face while raising a child with autism. Staff members are often so focused on assisting the individual with autism that it is difficult to really understand the struggles and complexities that parents face. This presentation will help professionals to become more sensitive toward parents, and will offer tips for working with the parents. Carol Paske, a parent of a boy with autism, will talk about what it is really like living with someone with autism 24-7. She will share her joys, her fears and what is helpful from the professional community.	Carol Paske and Patti Boheme
Testing Children with Autism Using Visual Supports (3 hours)	Presenter will discuss strategies for performing an accurate and thorough assessment of children with the autism spectrum. Proper selection of tests, strategies for structuring the testing session (including the use of visual systems in the context of assessment) and methods of modifying tasks to gain a greater understanding of the test taker's strengths, weakness and learning styles will be discussed. Strategies for addressing difficult behaviors which can serve as obstacles to testing will also be addressed.	Dr. Cynthia Brouillard
Organizational Supports for High-Functioning Autism (2 hours)	Presenter will discuss organizational problems that are commonly seen in individuals with High Functioning Autism. Several strategies will be presented to help these individuals organize their lives at home and at school. Ways to organize completing school work, homework and day to day activities will be discussed.	Kathy Evangelista

Title	Description	Presenter
<p>How to Run Social Skills Groups for Children with High-Functioning Autism (2-3 hours)</p>	<p>This training will provide participants with information about how to set up social skills groups for children and teens. The training will look at the characteristics of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and show how to use specific activities that can help these children develop better friendship and social skills. Participants will learn how to structure groups using picture and written schedules, tips for friendship, video modeling and games to promote success. Behavior management strategies will also be reviewed.</p>	<p>Patti Boheme</p>
<p>Teaching Personal Boundaries to Individuals with Autism (3 hours)</p>	<p>Knowing and understanding boundaries teaches us about sharing, keeps us safe, and allows us to work and play with others. Individuals without boundaries have no firm guidelines of right or wrong, how to treat others, or personal space. While they may be the bully, it is very likely they are the ones isolated or being bullied. This workshop will teach a variety of concepts (privacy, body parts, hurt, personal privacy, modesty, feelings, puberty and relationships guidelines) through visuals, worksheets, social stories, etc. Parents and professionals will find many helpful, practical strategies.</p>	<p>Carol Paske</p>
<p>Visual Systems for Now and the Future (3 hours)</p>	<p>Presentation discusses how and why visuals are used with individuals with ASD. Presenter will discuss multiple examples of how to design, teach, and build lifelong visual programming for the ASD learner. The presentation will demonstrate why it is important to document, develop and teach the ASD learner how to use visuals today so they can manage their world in the future. Strategies will include ways to improve communication, behavior, regulation, and the many different facets of life.</p>	<p>Carol Paske</p>