

Certified Autism **SPECIALIST**

COURSE LIST

Learning objectives for each course are listed at the end of this document.

Autism Spectrum Disorder: Challenging Behaviors
Autism Spectrum Disorder: Communication
Autism Spectrum Disorder: Diagnosis and Characteristics
Autism Spectrum Disorder: Prompting Strategies
Autism Spectrum Disorder: Social Interactions and Skill Development
Basics of Positive Behavior Support
Bullying Awareness, Prevention, and Intervention
Collecting Instructional or Behavioral Data
Co-Teaching: Basic Training
Differences Between Instructional and Curricular Modifications
Introduction to Accommodations and Modifications
Special Education Service Delivery: Inclusive to Self-Contained Classrooms
Specific Accommodation Ideas
Strategies to Defuse a Defiant Student
Supporting Students Who are Noncompliant
Teaching Appropriate Social Skills to Form Relationships and Prevent Bullying
The Importance of Academic Assessments in Special Education
The Role of Each IEP Team Member
Understanding Common Concerns of Families of Individuals with Disabilities
Working with Paraeducators (Part I)
Working with Paraeducators (Part II)

COURSES AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

Autism Spectrum Disorder: Challenging Behaviors

The participant will...

- Review the characteristics of ASD.
- Become familiar with the behavioral characteristics associated with ASD.

- Understand the needs and functions of behavior.
- Discover how positive behavioral supports can help prevent challenging behaviors.
- Learn techniques for replacing challenging behaviors with positive behaviors.

Autism Spectrum Disorder: Communication

The participant will...

- Review the characteristics of ASD.
- Understand the definition and function of communication.
- Examine the communication characteristics associated with ASD.
- Gain information on how learning issues impact communication.
- Learn about the different modes of communication that children with ASD may use.

Autism Spectrum Disorder: Diagnosis and Characteristics

The participant will...

- Learn the characteristics of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- Understand how professionals diagnose autism spectrum disorder.
- Become familiar with signs, symptoms, and issues associated with autism spectrum disorder.
- Learn the causes, prevalence, and prognosis for individuals with ASD.

Autism Spectrum Disorder: Prompting Strategies

The participant will...

- Be introduced to the concept of prompting for students with autism spectrum disorder.
- Examine the rationale for using prompting strategies in instruction and learning.
- Discover the varying levels of prompting and understand how the prompt hierarchy can be used to promote student independence.
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages associated with prompting.
- Learn tips and strategies for applying prompting procedures appropriately.

Autism Spectrum Disorder: Social Interactions and Skill Development

The participant will...

- Review the characteristics of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- Understand the definition and characteristics of social interaction.
- Gain information on how learning issues impact social interactions.
- Learn about different instructional approaches for social skills training.
- Gain tips to make social skills instruction more effective.

Basics of Positive Behavior Support

The participant will...

- Define the positive behavior support (PBS) approach and describe its main features.
- Explain the research basis for implementing positive behavior support.
- Differentiate universal, small group, and individual supports.
- Describe the responsibilities of the general education teacher in the implementation of positive behavior support.
- Provide examples of universal behavior supports and review the situations when a secondary level of support would be appropriate.
- Provide examples of individual behavior supports.

Bullying Awareness, Prevention, and Intervention

The participant will...

- Gain a practical understanding of the issue of bullying.
- Identify the different players in a bullying situation.
- Develop strategies for preventing bullying from occurring in the school setting.
- Learn how to intervene and address bullying when it does occur.

Collecting Instructional or Behavioral Data

The participant will...

- Understand the purpose of instructional or behavioral data collection.
- Review tips for successful data collection.
- Discover various methods for collecting instructional data.
- Examine various methods for collecting behavioral data.
- Learn how to make good decisions based on data.

Co-Teaching: Basic Training

The participant will...

- Define co-teaching and its essential elements.
- Identify the rationale for using a co-teach model and its benefit to students.
- Give non-examples of co-teaching basics.
- Describe different models of co-teaching.
- Explain the specific responsibilities of the general education and special education teacher.
- Name fundamental issues to consider prior to implementing a co-teaching model.
- Understand how to determine the effectiveness of co-teaching efforts.

Differences Between Instructional and Curricular Modifications

The participant will...

- Define instructional modifications (accommodations).
- Identify basic accommodation information and tips.

- Learn about accommodations for students with learning disabilities.
- Explore accommodation strategies for students with behavior disorders.
- Examine suggestions for accommodating students with intellectual disabilities.
- Become familiar with accommodation strategies for students with autism spectrum disorder.
- Learn about accommodating students with attention disorders.

Introduction to Accommodations and Modifications

The participant will...

- Learn the reason for the inclusion of students with special needs in the general classroom.
- Distinguish informal modifications from specified modifications.
- Identify a variety of reasons for making student modifications.
- Understand basic concepts associated with making modifications.

Special Education Service Delivery: Inclusive to Self-Contained Classrooms

The participant will...

- Differentiate between direct and indirect special education services.
- Learn the six settings associated with the special education continuum of services and identify the three which serve the largest numbers of students.
- Identify characteristics of inclusive, resource, and self-contained settings.
- Identify tips and suggestions for teachers working in or supporting inclusive, resource, or self-contained settings.
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of teachers for inclusive, resource, and self-contained settings.

Specific Accommodation Ideas

The participant will...

- Think about strategies for helping students with special needs.
- Review strategies for questioning students.
- Examine options for extending time given for assignments and tests.
- Explore ideas for shortening assignments.
- Discover ways to prompt students to recall information.
- Understand how task analysis can help students with special needs.
- Learn tips for adapting study guides.
- Understand the role of assistive technology in accommodating student needs.
- Examine two different ways to approach assessment accommodations.
- Identify appropriate accommodations as prescription medicine for students with special needs.

Strategies to Defuse a Defiant Student

The participant will...

- Understand the challenges of working with defiant students.
- Learn the five stages of defiant behavior and the appropriate intervention at each stage.
- Learn how to communicate appropriately through body language and voice tone.
- Learn how to counteract his or her unreasonable expectations.
- Learn how to set limits effectively.

Supporting Students Who are Noncompliant

The participant will...

- Learn what noncompliant behavior is.
- Study explanations for noncompliance.
- Gain information on personal skills to use with students who are noncompliant.
- Study tips for gaining student compliance to verbal interactions, rules, and routines.

Teaching Appropriate Social Skills to Form Relationships and Prevent Bullying

The participant will...

- Gain an understanding of the need for students to have good social skills.
- Recognize the role of teaching social skills and bullying prevention.
- Learn how to teach students social skills.
- Recognize the basic manners that should be expected of and taught to students.
- Learn ways to help students understand the importance of good manners and appropriate social skills.
- Review appropriate ways for students to interact with persons with disabilities.
- Identify important communication skills and ways to assist students in gaining those skills.

The Importance of Academic Assessments in Special Education

The participant will...

- Learn terminology associated with academic assessments.
- Identify the importance of collecting baseline data.
- Pinpoint ways to use assessment data to determine present levels of performance.
- Assess the types of data that are used to show and monitor progress.
- Discover how different types of assessment can influence student learning.
- Explain why assessments are important sources of information for those who teach and support students with special needs.

The Role of Each IEP Team Member

The participant will...

- Identify various team members who could have a role in the IEP process.
- Understand the role each IEP team member plays in developing and implementing a student's IEP.
- Understand the responsibilities of the IEP case manager.

Understanding Common Concerns of Families of Individuals with Disabilities

The participant will...

- Develop an understanding of the common concerns faced by families of individuals with disabilities.
- Become aware that parents want you to have high expectations for their children with disabilities.
- Learn what actions you can take to address safety concerns of parents.
- Understand your role in helping positively shape the attitudes of others toward individuals with disabilities.
- Identify ways to ease transitions for students with disabilities and their families.

Working with Paraeducators (Part I)

The participant will...

- Define the job title of paraeducator and acquire knowledge of general characteristics.
- Identify common myths about paraeducators.
- Recognize paraeducator accommodation and modification guidelines.
- Recognize the importance of providing an orientation to the classroom.
- Learn to define specific paraeducator duties.
- Identify strategies for planning with paraeducators.
- Describe various instructional arrangements for teachers and paraeducators.

Working with Paraeducators (Part II)

The participant will...

- Understand the roles and responsibilities of the teacher as a supervisor of paraeducators.
- Differentiate the roles of official and immediate supervisor and identify specific responsibilities of classroom teachers as immediate supervisors.
- Identify tips, strategies, and suggestions for effective supervision of paraeducators.
- Learn effective strategies for dealing with paraeducators assigned to classrooms.
- Understand the classroom teacher's role in paraeducator performance evaluation.
- Learn effective strategies for dealing with classroom instructional problems involving the paraeducator.