



UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

Successful Solutions Professional Development LLC

WWW.MYECECLASS-OBSERVE.COM/AUTISM

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ECE Virtual Classroom
Online Courses for Early Childhood Educators



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Understanding Autism

2 clock hours early childhood education

Course Description

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong condition that affects the way a person communicates and relates to those around them. Teaching and caring for those with ASD presents a unique set of challenges and responsibilities. This course serves as an introduction to the topic of autism. Causes, symptoms, and misconceptions will be presented as well as information on recognizing signs and common behaviors in children. Additionally, strategies and approaches on how educators can better support students with autism and their families will be included.

Washington STARS credit: Child Growth, Development, and Learning (2 hours)

CDA Content Area: Observing and Recording Children's Behavior (2 hours)

CDA Settings

- Infant/Toddler
- Preschool
- Family Child Care (Mixed-Age)

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Identify and debunk myths regarding Autism Spectrum Disorder
- ✓ Describe typical symptoms associated with autism
- ✓ Give examples of helpful instructional strategies that educators can use with children with autism in their classrooms
- ✓ List several medical issues that may accompany ASD
- ✓ Identify common “red flags” of development that educators should be familiar with
- ✓ Describe your role as an educator for assisting parents and guardians with the diagnosis of autism

Course Content

1. Course Agenda
2. What is Autism?
3. Autism — What We Know
4. Discussion: Reflection (1/3)
5. Autism Facts and Statistics
6. Common Myths
7. Vaccines Do Not Cause Autism
8. Signs and Symptoms: Social
9. Signs and Symptoms: Communication



10. Signs and Symptoms: Behaviors
 11. Autism Awareness
 12. Early Signs and Red Flags
 13. Developmental Red Flags
 14. Early Signs of Autism
 15. Physical and Medical Issues
 16. Approaching Parents with Concerns
 17. Your Role as an Educator
 18. Autism Tool: Sensory
 19. Autism Tool: Visual Aids
 20. Autism Tool: Social Stories
 21. Social Story (2/3)
 22. Things to Keep in Mind
 23. What it Feels Like to be Autistic
 24. End of Course Quiz (3/3)
 25. Course Evaluation Form
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Sources

- What Are the Symptoms of Autism?, Autism Speaks Inc. <https://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism/symptoms>
- Signs of Autism, National Autism Association, <http://nationalautismassociation.org/resources/signs-of-autism/>
- What Causes Autism?, United Cerebral Palsy <http://www.mychildwithoutlimits.org/understand/autism/what-causes-autism/>
- Teaching young children on the autism spectrum, The National Autistic Society, <http://www.autism.org.uk/professionals/teachers/teaching-young-children.aspx>
- Teaching Students with Autism, A Resource Guide for Schools, British Columbia, Ministry of Education, <https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/docs/autism.pdf>
- 10 Facts about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd/10-facts-about-asd>
- Autism: Suggestions for schools and early learning services, Australian Government Dept. of Health, <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/mental-health-matters/autism-spectrum-disorders/suggestions-schools-and-early-learning-services>
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Signs and Symptoms, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/signs.html>



Glossary of Terms

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Neurological disorder characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication, as well as by unique strengths and differences.

Spectrum

Means that it varies from person to person.

Behavior

The way in which one acts or conducts oneself, especially toward others.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is the protection of personal information. Confidentiality means keeping a client's information between you and the client, and not telling others including co-workers, friends, family, etc.

Neurological Disorder

Neurological disorders are diseases that affect the brain and the central and autonomic nervous systems.

Red Flags

Red flags are warning signs that development may be delayed or atypical. These red flags are noticed when children don't meet milestones as expected.

Optional Resources for Further Study

- An Early Childcare Provider's Guide to Managing Challenging Behaviors, Autism Speaks, https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/docs/cchmc_autism_toolkit_early_childhood_providers_guide_weber.pdf
- Autism Classroom: The Place Where Parents and Teachers Learn, <http://www.autismclassroom.com/>
- School Community Tool Kit, Autism Speaks, <https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/school-community-tool-kit>
- Learn the signs of autism, Autism Speaks Inc., <https://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism/from-first-concern-to-action/learn-signs>



- Social communication in autism, explained, by Lydia Denworth, 19 April 2018, Spectrum, <https://www.spectrumnews.org/news/social-communication-autism-explained/>
- How Autism Affects Communication in Young Children, The Hanen Centre, <http://www.hanen.org/Helpful-Info/Autism-Corner/How-Autism-Affects-Communication.aspx>
- Study Suggests Repetitive Behaviors Emerge Early in Autism, May 15, 2014, Autism Speaks Inc., <https://www.autismspeaks.org/science/science-news/study-suggests-repetitive-behaviors-emerge-early-autism>
- Self-Soothing Repetitive Behavior, October 6, 2015, Caravel Autism Health, <https://caravelautism.com/caravel-autism-insights/self-soothing-repetitive-behavior/>
- How to Deal with Obsessive and Repetitive Behaviour, Durham Region Autism Services, <http://www.durham-autism.org/obsessive-repetitive-behaviour-autism/>
- Infants and Toddlers Early Intervention, Autism Society, <http://www.autism-society.org/living-with-autism/autism-through-the-lifespan/infants-and-toddlers/>
- Early Signs of Autism Video Tutorial, Kennedy Krieger Institute (excellent resource), <https://www.kennedykrieger.org/patient-care/patient-care-centers/center-autism-and-related-disorders/outreach-training/early-signs-of-autism-video-tutorial>
- Developmental Milestones, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Early Indicators of Autism (Red Flags for ASD) in Infants and Toddlers, Maryann Trott MA, <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html> BCBA, University of New Mexico, Center for Development and Disability, http://cdd.unm.edu/autism/pdfs/autism-portal-briefs/15-12_Red%20Flags.pdf

Course Author

A special thank you to Kimberlee Turner, MS Ed and Erika Booth, BA Ed for developing the curriculum for this topic.

ECE Virtual Classroom Academic Coach

The Virtual Classroom Academic Coach's role is to support the ECE students through the training process. The Virtual Classroom Academic Coach reviews assignment per directions, monitors discussion threads, answers inquiries/emails, monitors student engagement, provides online student support, and regularly collaborates with team members on development. The Virtual Classroom Academic Coach serves as the facilitator and grader, while the Online Educators are the official state approved trainers.



Student Support

The best way to reach us is through live student support chat. Look for the Chat with Us bubble on the bottom left corner of the website.

Website: www.myececlass-observe.com

E-mail: info@myececlass.com

Phone: (360) 602-0960

Student Support Hours

Chat & Email Support

Monday - Friday	7 am – 6 pm
Saturday & Sunday	9 am – 6 pm
Holidays (Email Only)	10 am – 4 pm

Phone Support

Monday - Friday	7 am – 6 pm
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Required Assignments

Reading

The text on each page should be read. When you submit the worksheets, discussion boards, and click on the NEXT PAGE button, it will create a record of your progress moving through each page.

Videos

Watch the videos as you encounter them. If you have trouble with the videos playing, this may require that you update flash player on your computer. Optionally, some students find that if they are having difficulties playing the videos on their computer, they can view them on their phone. There is a link above the videos to view them on YouTube directly. You may wish to save the Youtube link for the video to refer to in the future, or in order to use another device for viewing.

Discussion

The discussion questions are a required part of the course. You may either post on the discussion board where you are contributing to the thread with other students. Alternately, you have the option of clicking on the link above the discussion board and submitting your response on a worksheet form. The ECE Virtual Classroom Coach will be tracking your submission of the discussion board assignments as part of meeting the learning outcomes for the course.



Worksheets

Check for Understanding worksheets are provided throughout each course. The worksheets allow opportunities to reflect on the course materials as you are progressing through the training. Watch your email in-box for trainer feedback. You may not receive feedback for every single assignment, depending on how quickly you are moving through the course. Instead, you may receive an email letting you know that your work was done well, with a certificate attached. If you need guidance, the trainer or the academic coach will be sending you emails with feedback with instructions for resubmission. Certificates will not be issued if worksheets are skipped, incomplete, or filled in with inappropriate responses. If you need assistance, we have student support available via Live Student Support Chat 7 days a week (Mon.-Fri. 7 am-8 pm and Sat.-Sun. 9am-6pm PST).

Quizzes

The end of course quizzes are primarily multiple choice and true or false questions, with occasional open-ended questions. 70% or better is required to pass the quiz. You can review the course materials and retake the quiz as many times as needed to pass. Automated emails are sent to you confirming that you have submitted the worksheets and quizzes and provide you with a link to resume at the next page.

Optional Course Items

The items below are offered in each course as options. Optional means that you have the choice to utilize them, or not.

Optional Resources for Further Study

We have included a wealth of resource links for you to explore and further your knowledge about each topic.

The resource links provided in our website are provided solely for your convenience and may assist you in locating other useful information on the Internet. When you click on these links you will leave our website and will be redirected to another website. These websites are not under the control of Successful Solutions Training in Child Development. Successful Solutions Training in Child Development is not responsible for the content of linked third party websites. We are not affiliated with these third parties nor do we endorse or guarantee their products, services, website content, etc. We make no representation or warranty regarding the accuracy of the information contained in the linked websites. We suggest that you always verify the information obtained from linked websites before acting upon this information.

Parking Lot

The Parking Lot is offered as an optional opportunity to interact with the trainer about a question that you may have about the course topic. If you do not have a question, it is not



necessary to fill out this form, it is not required. If you choose to submit a question to the trainer, she will respond to you by email. Be sure to watch your email in-box.

You can always leave a message for student support on our Live Chat on the bottom left corner of the website, any time of day or night. If we are not available, we will respond by email as soon as possible.

Certificates

When you submit the evaluation form, that prompts the academic coach to review all of your work. We will evaluate your work to assure that you have met the learning outcomes. Once that assessment is complete, you will receive your certificate by email. [Click Here](#) for a sample certificate. (This certificate is an example. The student certificate may vary slightly). Certificates are prepared 7 days a week between 7 am and 7 pm PST. In most cases, you should receive your certificate by email within a few hours after you submit the evaluation form, or first thing the next morning.

State Training Approval

This training may, or may not, meet annual training requirements in your state. Please provide us with your state, and any State registry ID number on the evaluation form, and if we are able to record your completed training with your state, we will. In some cases, for annual state credit, you will need to submit the certificate to the appropriate registry and they may or may not award annual credit. Providing a State Registry number to us does not guarantee that your state will approve the training for annual continuing education credit.

The following states have *pre-approved* our courses:

- Washington State DEL MERIT Trainer: Kimberlee Turner, MS Ed #4062747253
- Texas Approved Master Trainer: Kimberlee Turner, MS Ed #34928
- Illinois Organization Approval Number B102312
- Ohio (Entity OIN # 21084413)
- North Carolina Organization Approval
- Utah Organization Approval for Online Career Ladder Courses
- Vermont Organization Approval

Our courses may be accepted many states that do not require pre-approval.



Technical Requirements

- Laptop or PC
- Most students are able to use mobile devices such as tablets to complete courses. However, each device is different, and an individual's skill level with the device may determine their success with using a mobile device.
- Recommended web browser: Google Chrome
 - Microsoft Edge, Safari and Firefox are other acceptable browsers.
 - Internet Explorer is no longer supported by Microsoft, and you may have issues if you use it to take training.
- Operating System
 - Make sure you're using a current operating system (for example, Windows 10).
 - Outdated operating systems may cause technical difficulties.
- Internet Speed
 - Slow internet speed may impact loading time.
- Videos may require Adobe Flash Player.

Adobe Reader is required to open PDF files. Download Adobe Reader can be downloaded free <https://acrobat.adobe.com/us/en/acrobat/pdf-reader.html>

