

April 13, 2013 Conference Presentations

Keynote

Improving Outcomes for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: From Early Detection to Early Intervention

Dr. Amy Wetherby

This presentation will provide an overview of the research initiatives of the Florida State University Autism Institute focusing on young children. The national priority of early intervention for young children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) has led to the need for improved early detection methods and for developmentally-appropriate evidence-based early intervention strategies. Research findings of the CDC/NIH funded *FIRST WORDS® Project* on early red flags of ASD in toddlers will be presented. Video vignettes will be shown to illustrate specific red flags in social communication and repetitive behaviors in very young children with ASD. The research approach of the *Early Social Interaction Project*, a randomized controlled trial funded by Autism Speaks and the NIMH to teach parents of toddlers with ASD how to embed intervention supports to promote active engagement will be presented. Strategies for implementing intervention in everyday activities in the natural learning environment will be illustrated through video vignettes of toddlers with ASD.

Concurrent Sessions

Topic	Presenter(s)	Sessions
<p>Promising Practices for Students with Autism: A Behavioral Approach</p> <p>This presentation will explore promising practices currently in place at a school for children with autism. Case studies and data will be presented which support the behavior-based approach to instruction utilized at the Florida Autism Center of Excellence. Strategies discussed address the following domains: social/emotional development, communication, independent functioning, and academic/functional skill acquisition.</p>	<p>Dr. Heather Duncan</p>	<p>1 & 3</p>
<p>Social Skills and Executive Functioning Models for High Functioning ASD Students</p> <p>Participants will become familiar with a variety of social skills and executive functioning service models offered by Miami Dade County Public Schools for students with high functioning autism spectrum disorder and Asperger's syndrome who are enrolled in a general education curriculum.</p>	<p>Mercy Suarez, Ed.S, Autism Support Counselor & Kendall Graham Elias, J.D., M.S. Community Liaison Specialist Miami Dade County Public School District</p>	<p>1 & 2</p>
<p>Autism Intensive Communication Academies – the Dream, the Path and the Results/Rewards</p> <p>During this session, presenters will provide information regarding the Autism Intensive Communication Academies – the beginning of the programs, challenges and triumphs, and what they have learned from teachers and support staff. These academies were developed with the goal of supporting the development of communication skills in our most challenged population of students with ASD. Classrooms are technology rich environments and teachers are provided with intensive support to achieve this goal. Focus will be past, present and future implementation strategies based on the experiences over the last 3 years. Participants who so desire will receive access to forms and resource materials prepared for these academies to date.</p>	<p>Sharla Jefferson M.S./CCC-SLP & Tina McAlpin, M.S./CCC-SLP Miami Dade County Public School District</p>	<p>1 & 2</p>

<p>Recreation Options This is a panel presentation with representatives from various counties. Presenters will provide an overview of resources available in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties. Participants will be able to ask specific questions regarding community resources.</p>	<p>Facilitated by Donna Djerf, Family Liaison The School District of Lee County</p>	<p>1 & 2</p>
<p>Parent's and Special Education Teachers' Extent of Awareness on How Children with Autism Perceive Their Sexuality This study was conducted to determine the extent of awareness of parents and Special Education (SpEd) teachers on how children with autism perceive their sexuality along several areas such as; awareness of self, understanding maturity and puberty, interpersonal relationships, sexual responsibilities and relationships. The study was the result of observations by the researcher and other people on how the children with autism accept as well as cope with the various changes in their sexuality. These observations paved the way for the researchers to further probe on whether children with autism understand their sexuality. Due to the complexities attributed to autism as a developmental disorder, it was deemed proper to involve the parents and the special education teachers who are the persons who come in close contact with these children.</p>	<p>Jennifer C. Chan M.A. Teacher/ SpEd Coordinator and Grace Lucero Duenas, Instructor/ Professor Autism Society-Baguio Chapter/University of Baguio</p>	<p>1 & 2</p>
<p>Navigating Air Travel The session will cover advances in screening technologies and processes, information about screening resources and requirements.</p>	<p>Robert S. Cohen, Federal Security Director, Southwest Florida International Airport</p>	<p>2 & 3</p>
<p>A Review of Florida's Autism Law: Putting the Pieces Together Participants will be engaged in interactive discussion learning about the Autism Reform laws for private insurance and Medicaid. Participants are encouraged to ask questions</p>	<p>Jennifer Agganis, MS, BCBA Positive Behavior Supports, Corp.</p>	<p>2 & 3</p>
<p>Using the Verbal Behavior Approach to Teach Children with Autism Children with autism, regardless of age or severity of symptoms, need effective, individualized programming. This workshop will provide an overview of The Verbal Behavior Approach and will give participants specific ways to improve language skills for a variety of learners. In addition, this workshop will review basic principles of Applied Behavior Analysis used to reduce problem behaviors. Through lecture and video examples participants will leave with a good understanding of implementing the Verbal Behavior Approach when teaching children with autism.</p>	<p>Dr. Renee Terrasi, BCBA-D Peace By Piece</p>	<p>2 & 3</p>

April 13, 2013 Conference Agenda

8:00-9:00 AM Onsite Registration and Vendor Exhibits Cohen Center

9:00 AM Introductions Cayle Thompson, WINK
 Welcome Dr. Ronald Toll, Provost, FGCU
 Flow of the Day Dr. Marci Greene, Dean and Professor, FGCU College of Education

9:15-10:45 AM Keynote Cohen Center Ballroom
 Improving Outcomes for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: From Early Detection to Early Intervention
 Dr. Amy Wetherby

10:45-11:00 AM Break

11:00 AM-12:00 PM Concurrent Sessions 1

Topic	Presenter(s)	Location
Improving Outcomes for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: From Early Detection to Early Intervention: Part 2	Dr. Amy Wetherby, Director , Florida State University Autism Institute	Cohen Center Ballroom
Promising Practices for Students with Autism: A Behavioral Approach	Dr. Heather Duncan , Pinellas County School District	Cohen Center 214
Social Skills and Executive Functioning Models for High Functioning ASD Students	Mercy Suarez, Ed.S, Autism Support Counselor & Kendall Graham Elias, J.D., M.S. Community Liaison Specialist , Miami Dade County Public School District	Cohen Center 247
Autism Intensive Communication Academies: the Dream, the Path and the Results/Rewards	Sharla Jefferson M.S./CCC-SLP & Tina McAlpin, M.S./CCC-SLP , Miami Dade County Public School District	Sugden 110
Parent's and Special Education Teachers' Extent of Awareness on How Children with Autism Perceive Their Sexuality	CANCELLED Chan M.A. Teacher/ SpEd Coordinator and Grace Anas, Instructor/Professor , Autism Society-Baguio Chapter/University of Baguio	Sugden 208

12:00-1:30 PM Lunch and Vendor Exhibits Cohen Center

1:30 -2:30 PM Concurrent Sessions 2

Topic	Presenter(s)	Location
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Navigating Air Travel	Robert S. Cohen, Federal Security Director , Southwest Florida International Airport	Cohen Center Ballroom
A Review of Florida's Autism Law: Putting the Pieces Together	Jennifer Agganis, MS, BCBA , Positive Behavior Supports, Corp.	Cohen Center 214
Social Skills and Executive Functioning Models for High Functioning ASD Students	Mercy Suarez, Ed.S, Autism Support Counselor & Kendall Graham Elias, J.D., M.S. Community Liaison Specialist , Miami Dade County Public School District	Cohen Center 247
Using the Verbal Behavior Approach to Teach Children with Autism	Dr. Renee Terrasi BCBA-D , Peace By Piece	Sugden 111
Parent's and Special Education Teachers' Extent of Awareness on How Children Perceive Their Sexuality	Jennifer C. Chan M.A. Teacher/ SpEd Coordinator and Grace Duenas, Instructor/Professor , Autism Society-Baguio Chapter/University of Baguio	Sugden 208

2:30-2:45 PM

Break

2:45 -3:45 PM

Concurrent Sessions 3

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Navigating Air Travel	Robert S. Cohen, Federal Security Director , Southwest Florida International Airport	Cohen Center Ballroom
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