



AUTISM TRAINING: UNDERSTANDING AND MEETING THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS ACROSS THE SPECTRUM

CESA #3 - Conference Room A
Wednesday, April 4, 2012
11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Overview:

This training provides a framework for understanding autism spectrum disorders, including high functioning autism and Asperger Syndrome. Topics include:

- What does autism look like?
- Discovering the function of the behavior
- Learning style characteristics and strategies
- Instructional environment
- Video modeling
- Visual support strategies
- Sensory motor characteristics
- Communication and social characteristics
- Strategies to teach social skills

Participants will gain an understanding of the autism spectrum, its related disorders, and how the disorders affect a student's behavior, social interactions, and learning. Participants will learn how to use evidence-based strategies to assist students in meeting their academic and social needs.



About the Presenters:

Kenosha Unified Autism Team was developed in 2009 to meet the needs of the fast growing population of students with autism. The team is comprised of school psychologists, program support teachers, occupational therapists, speech therapists, assistive technology staff, an early childhood teacher, and a coordinator. The team developed a Level 1 Training designed to provide all staff members a basic understanding of autism. Soon the Level 2 Training was developed as staff members were eager to learn more. The team recognized a need to combine the two levels into a single presentation to meet building needs. In 2011, the team started Level 3 Trainings in which members of the autism team consult with staff regarding an individual student with autism per teacher request.

Peggy Schofield is a Coordinator of Special Education and Student Support for Kenosha Unified Schools. She has worked as a program support teacher, a transition teacher as well as working as an independent living coordinator and a supervisor for Lamb's Farm working with adults with significant cognitive disabilities. Peggy has worked with the district autism committee for several years as well as teaching a course for staff on autism. She has worked with people with autism from early childhood through adults. Peggy has a focus on helping staff understand the role of sensory processing differences on learning.

Jessi Lowney began her interest in autism as a teenager, volunteering in her mother's early childhood classroom. She graduated from UW-Whitewater with a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood:Special Ed and received her Master's degree from UW-LaCrosse. Jessi is a member of the Autism Society and was able to attend her first national conference in 2011. She is also a member of the Kenosha Unified Autism Team where she conducts trainings as well as consults with teachers about autism. Jessi is currently an itinerant early childhood teacher and teaches a class for staff called Autism Beyond the Basics.

Katie Crowe works as a program support teacher for Kenosha Unified School District. She has worked to support students with special education needs for 15 years at all age levels and in a variety of settings. She has worked in public and private schools to support students with autism. She has taught at the middle and high school level and currently works to support students at all levels including elementary school students. Katie has been involved with the autism committee and is eager to work using evidenced based best practices while supporting students with autism.

Cost: \$35.00 (includes lunch and materials) *The low cost fee is due to funding provided by the Regional Service Network (RSN) Grant through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Register at: <http://login.myquickreg.com/agency/event/event.cfm?eventid=3749>

For more information contact Jim Nelson, CESA #3, 608-822-3276, x. 211 or 1-800-261-0000, jnelson@cesa3.k12.wi.us