





## **ONLINE:** Introduction to Autism

### **Course Outline**

#### **LESSON 1**

##### **Overview**

- The definition and symptoms of autism.
- The autism spectrum and primary conditions within this spectrum.
- Other similar conditions, including Rett's syndrome and Fragile X syndrome.
- Primary management for autism.
- Functioning of the brain in autism and the cause for deficits.

#### **LESSON 2**

##### **Social Interactions**

- Theory of mind and how best a teacher can interact with a student at each level.
- Language and communication in autism.
- Ways in which students with autism understand language and express themselves, and learn strategies that can be used to strengthen comprehension and expression in the classroom.
- Social development and how teachers can help promote social development.

#### **LESSON 3**

##### **Expressions of Autism**

- Sensory issues seen in autism and how teachers can work with students who may be struggling with these issues.
- Other symptoms that affect a child's ability to learn including splintered development, perseveration, deficits in imitation and repetitive behavior.
- Motivation and how students with autism may be motivated.

#### **LESSON 4**

##### **Autism in School**

- Classroom organization and management strategies that will help accommodate a child with autism in school.
- Strategies that may be used to adapt the classroom environment, classroom schedules and teaching materials in order to promote learning.
- Behavior issues that may be seen in a student with autism and learning to respond to these issues.
- Working along with the parents and the team in the treatment and education of a student with autism.