



ConnectedPD
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ONLINE: Introduction to Autism

“The course content was very insightful and interesting. It definitely provided me with more information to better understand my students, their needs, and strategies.”

- Tiffany O.



Most of us know someone with autism. This neurodevelopmental condition impacts a student’s ability to communicate, form social skills, and manage sensory challenges often affecting their academic potential and learning style in the classroom. A person with autism may experience thinking, remembering events, reacting and communicating in a unique way. In this course, educators will find tried and tested strategies, tips, real-life examples and insights to create more inclusive classroom and help students on the autism spectrum thrive.

Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Application of Content, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content and Teachers Facilitate Learning.

Each online PD course includes:

- **Convenient access** anytime, anywhere, any device
- Interactive **online** textbook
- Implement **practical suggestions** immediately
- Demonstrate comprehension with **quizzes** and checks for understanding
- Print **certificates** of completion
- Easily assign courses to align with each teacher’s **personalized PD needs**
- **Integrate** with school and district-wide initiatives
- **Low cost solution for all courses, all teachers, all school year**
- **Reports** for school administrators



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Course Outline

LESSON 1: Overview

- Definition
- Symptoms and other similar conditions
- Therapies
- Labeling neurodevelopmental disorders
- The brain in Autism Spectrum Disorder

LESSON 2: Social Skills in ASD

- Social skills and related challenges.
- Theory of the Mind
- Teaching non-verbal learners
- Verbal processing, echolalia, perseveration, and scripting
- Abstract language, eye contact, empathy, spatial terms, and pronouns

LESSON 3: Expressions of Autism

- Sensory hyposensitivity and hypersensitivity
- Splintered development, perseveration, and stress
- Part-to-whole or whole-to-part thinking
- The lack of social motivation and imagination in children with ASD
- Extraordinary abilities

LESSON 4: ASD in School

- Neurological differences in children with ASD
- Central Coherence Theory
- Classroom physical environment
- Teaching materials and strategies
- Behavior management strategies
- Working with parents and team