

## **Professional Training Workshops: January–April, 2011**

All workshops are held at Autism Community Network, 701 S. Zarzamora,  
and run from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm or 1:00-4:00 pm.

Cost: \$30 per person –or– \$50 per person if attending 2 workshops on the same day

**For more information and to register call (210) 435-1000**

**PROVIDERS & EDUCATORS.** If you are a provider of care or an educator of children with autism spectrum disorders, we can help further your education and workshop. Teachers: CEUs offered for all workshops.

**January 21                    9 am-12 pm    Introduction to Verbal Behavior**

This workshop will discuss the behavior classification of language based on B.F. Skinner’s book, Verbal Behavior (1957). Language is classified by function and the verbal and nonverbal operants associated with language will be discussed.

**January 21                    1 pm-4pm      Utilizing the ABLLS and VB-MAPP**

This workshop will discuss the use of the Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills (ABLLS) and Verbal Behavior-Milestones and Assessment Program (VB-MAPP) to assess verbal behavior and develop IEP and therapeutic goals for students with autism.

**January 28                    9 am-12 pm    Introduction to Joint Attention**

This workshop will provide basic information on joint attention and its relation to autism spectrum disorders.

**January 28                    1 pm-4pm      Advanced Joint Attention  
(Prerequisite: Introduction to Joint Attention)**

Methods for teaching joint attention will be taught.

**February 4                    9 am-12 pm    Mand Workshop**

Manding refers to a child’s ability to request. This course will cover strategies to teach early, intermediate, and advanced learners to mand.

**February 4                    1 pm-4pm      Vocal Development and Echoic Workshop**

Participants will learn strategies to develop vocal language in children who are non-vocal and to shape articulation.

**February 11                    9 am-12 pm    Introduction to Feeding Difficulties**

Information on why children don’t eat will be provided.

**February 11                    1 pm-4pm      Sensory Motor Feeding Difficulties**

A review of strategies to address the needs of picky eaters, problem feeders, and food aversions will be discussed.

**February 18                    9 am-12 pm    Understanding Visual Supports**

Participants will learn about some easy-to-use visual supports that can be used to help children with autism prepare themselves for navigating their own lives.

**February 18                    1 pm-4pm      Visual Supports Make and Take**

**(Prerequisite: Understanding Visual Supports)**

Participants will create visual supports to use with their students.

**February 25                    9 am-12 pm    Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis Part I**

Two basic principles of applied behavior analysis, classical and operant condition, and their application in autism intervention will be discussed.

**February 25                    1 pm-4pm      Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis Part II:  
Prompting, Fading, Chaining, Shaping, and Task  
Analysis  
(Prerequisite: Foundations of Applied Behavior  
Analysis Part I)**

Prompting, fading, chaining, shaping, and task analysis and their application in autism intervention will be discussed.

**March 4                        9 am-12 pm    Understanding Sensory Processing Difficulties**

This workshop will cover terminology related to sensory processing disorders and how these issues can affect a child in terms of behavior, cognition, language, motor skills, and social-emotional equilibrium. An estimated 70 percent of children with autism spectrum disorders have Sensory Integration Disorders.

**March 4                        1 pm-4pm      Treating Sensory Processing Difficulties  
(Prerequisite: Understanding Sensory Processing  
Difficulties)**

Strategies tailored to the needs of a child with autism spectrum disorders and sensory processing difficulties will be discussed.

**March 11                      9 am-12 pm    Introduction to Challenging Behaviors and Functions of  
Behavior**

This course will provide an overview on challenging behaviors, and teach participants about functions of challenging behaviors.

**March 11                      1 pm-4pm      Functional Behavior Assessment**

Research indicates that interventions for decreasing challenging behavior that are based on functional behavior assessments are more effective. This workshop will discuss the use of functional behavior assessment as the first step in developing effective interventions to decrease challenging behavior.

**March 25                      9 am-12 pm    Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders**

This workshop will answer basic questions about autism, including defining autism spectrum disorders and describing its characteristics and diagnosis criteria.

**March 25                      1 pm-4pm      Treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorders**

This workshop will provide a general overview on treatments for people with autism spectrum disorders, with a focus on evidence based practices.

**April 1                         9 am-12 pm    Antecedent and Consequence Interventions  
(Prerequisite: Functional Behavior Assessment)**

This workshop will discuss the use of antecedent and consequence based interventions to decrease challenging behavior.

**April 1**                      **1 pm-4pm**            **Developing Behavior Intervention Plans  
(Prerequisites: Functional Behavior Assessment &  
Antecedent and Consequence Interventions)**

This course will combine the information learned in Introduction to Challenging Behaviors and Functions of Behavior, Functional Behavior Assessment, and Antecedent and Consequence Interventions to teach participants to develop effective behavior intervention plans that decrease challenging behavior .

**April 8**                      **9 am-12 pm**            **Developmental Milestones**

Understanding how a child naturally acquires skills allows us to set realistic, functional, and attainable goals. This workshop will cover the seven major areas of development.

**April 8**                      **1 pm-4pm**            **Teaching Play Skills**

Children learn best through play. This workshop discusses different learning styles and therapeutic strategies for incorporating new learning concepts into fun and preferred play activities.

**April 29**                      **9 am-12 pm**            **Data Collection, Graphing, and Visual Analysis**

Participants will learn various data collections methods to track the progress of their students and to graph, analyze, and utilize data to guide decision making regarding the student's education/treatment.

**April 29**                      **1 pm-4pm**            **Program Management**

This course will discuss how to manage a comprehensive applied behavior analysis program.

**Bios of ACN Training Instructors:**

**Berenice de la Cruz, PhD, BCBA-D, Director of Training and Research**, received her PhD from The University of Texas at Austin in Special Education specializing in autism and developmental disabilities. For her dissertation, she developed a self-monitoring treatment package to support teachers in developing and implementing interventions in the classroom. Dr. de la Cruz received her Masters in Clinical Psychology at University of Texas at El Paso, where she researched animal models of autism. She has worked with people with autism and other developmental disabilities for 10 years in school settings such as The Moore-Weis Children's Center of Austin as well as home settings as a teacher, therapist, and trainer for parents of people with autism and professionals servicing people with autism. Dr. de la Cruz has published several peer-reviewed research articles and co-authored several book chapters in the fields of developmental disabilities, addictive behaviors, and social cognition.

**Chris Plauché Johnson, MEd, MD, Medical Director** is a Board Certified Neurodevelopmental Pediatrician and retired as a Professor of Pediatrics at University of Texas Health Center in San Antonio in 2007. She was the Founder and Volunteer Medical Executive Director of Children's Association for Maximum Potential (CAMP) Inc., a 30-year-old United Way agency that serves children with autism. She served on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) National Committee on Children with Disabilities from 1997-07 and as Co-Chair of the Autism Expert Panel from 2003-07. She was the lead author for development of the AAP Guidelines for diagnosis and management of children with autism (both 2001 and 2007 sets) and the AAP Toolkit that accompanied the guidelines. Dr. Plauché serves on several editorial boards and has published chapters, review articles and commentaries addressing autism, mental retardation, developmental screening, normal development and family supports.

**Executive Director Jessica H. Franco, PhD**, is a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist (CCC-SLP) and Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). She is Regional Chair of the Texas Autism Council Advisory Task Force and has been working with children with autism for over a dozen years. Before joining the Autism Community Network, she traveled as an autism consultant for schools and centers around the country. Jesse specializes in treating communication disorders and severe challenging behaviors, and acts as a mentor for clinical therapists seeking to improve their understanding of autism-related behavior and interventions. She holds degrees from the University of Kansas and University of Texas at Austin and is a frequent visiting professor at UT Austin.

**Tina G. Tschoepe, MS, CCC-SLP** is a Speech-Language Pathologist with over 10 years of experience. She received both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Southwest Texas State University. She has received specialized training in the areas of autism, apraxia of speech, language disorders, Beckman oral-motor therapy, PECS, and the SOS Approach to feeding therapy. Tina holds certifications with both the American Speech Language Hearing Association, and the Texas State Board of Examiners in Speech and Language Pathology. She is Hanen Certified in the It Takes Two to Talk, More Than Words, and Learning Language and Loving It Programs.

**Christie Aylsworth, MS/CCC-SLP** has been practicing as a pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist in the San Antonio area since 2000. She received both her undergraduate and graduate degree from Baylor University. Christie has worked with a variety developmental disabilities in multiple pediatric settings including outpatient clinics, developmental centers, and schools. She has been a member of an autism diagnostic team since 2004 and is certified by the Hanen Centre.

**Lupe Castañeda, MS, BCBA**, is the Executive Director of Behavior Analytic Solutions, LLC. He has worked with individuals with autism and other disabilities for more than 18 years. He currently provides behavioral consultation, staff training for public and private agencies, and training for parents of children, youth, and adults with various disabilities throughout Texas. Mr. Castañeda is also residing as Chair of the newly formed South Central Texas Autism Special Interest Group (Texas Association for Behavior Analysis).

**Shana Gilbert, OTR** is a pediatric Occupational Therapist. She graduated from the UTHSC-SA in 1996 and has since worked in a variety of pediatric settings to include public schools, local child development centers, military bases, emergency children shelters, and outpatient therapy clinics. Her professional experience also includes a 5 year involvement with a non-profit diagnostic clinic for children with autism.