

# Introduction to Autism for Early Childhood Community-Based Teachers and Administrators

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD): What exactly is it? Why use the word "spectrum"? Why are we hearing more and more about autism in the media? How do I know if a child has autism? How is autism treated, and what can I do for a young child with autism? In this session, participants will receive answers to their questions about the complex and often baffling disability known as autism spectrum disorder.

Autism spectrum disorder is a complex developmental disability present early in life that impacts a child's development. Current research indicates three specific areas of developmental delay, including social reciprocity and interaction, communication, and repetitive behavior (Wing, 2001). Within these developmental areas, the severity of the disability and the impact it has on a child's involvement in daily life activities will range from mild to profound.

This session will provide an introduction to ASD, describe the strengths and challenges for children with ASD and the range of impact the disorder has on development, and offer a brief overview of outcomes with early intervention and participation in high quality community programs as a component of intervention.

## Participants in this professional development activity will:

- understand and articulate the definition of ASD;
- identify the developmental areas impacted by ASD;
- describe the range of severity of ASD and the impact on a child's participation in daily activities; and
- identify barriers to, as well as strategies for, the successful inclusion of children with ASD in community-based programs to improve outcomes for all young children, including those with disabilities.

## Date, Time, Location:

Saturday, November 17, 2007  
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Crowne Plaza, Cromwell

## Presenter:

Susan G. Izeman, Ph.D.  
Director of the Greenwich Autism Program  
Greenwich ARC

## Audience: PreK, 3-5

Thirty-five (35) early childhood teachers and administrators from community-based programs

## CEUs:

None  
Certificate of attendance will be awarded.

## Registration Fee:

\$25.00 per person  
Payable to Rensselaer at Hartford  
Payment is due prior to the session upon confirmation of participation.

## Questions/ Special Needs:

Contact: Karyn Champion  
Education Services Specialist  
(860) 632-1485, ext. 225

## Register By:

Friday, November 2, 2007



This activity is sponsored by SERC's *Early Childhood Education Initiative* and has been approved for CT Charts-A-Course credits.



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Early Childhood Education Initiative

Please return application to SERC, **ECE Initiative**, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457-1520. Participants will be selected on a first come, first served basis with regional consideration. Applicants will receive written confirmation regarding participation shortly after the registration closing date. The registration fee is payable upon notice of acceptance.

## APPLICATION FORM: **Intro to Autism/ECE**

(08-46-013-FN/ECE)kc

(Please print clearly.)

District/Region \_\_\_\_\_ School/Program \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Role \_\_\_\_\_ Age Range \_\_\_B-3\_\_\_3-5\_\_\_K Email (Please Print.) \_\_\_\_\_

In which region do you receive/provide services? \_\_\_ACES // \_\_\_CES // \_\_\_CREC // \_\_\_EASTCONN // \_\_\_ED CONNECTION // \_\_\_LEARN