

**FAU Center for Autism and
Related Disabilities**

It's About Time!

Evidence-Based Practices in Supporting Social Skills and Friendship Initiation and Support for Pre-K and Elementary Age Children with Autism

Presented by: Alanna Apap, M.S., BCBA Hosted by: FAU CARD

About the Presenter

Alanna Apap, M.S., BCBA is the creator of the Peer P.A.L.S.®, a Peer Mediated Intervention (PMI) and evidence-based social integration program that provides training, lessons, and materials to educate and successfully connect peer pals with autistic children. Alanna has over 30 years working as a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) in early intervention, education, and behavior analysis. She has consulted with public and private schools, group homes, community facilities, and in individual homes. Ms. Apap's work with multidisciplinary school-based teams was published in the Autism File Issue 31, 2009, and in several publications, including The School Discipline Advisor and Inclusive Education Programs. The Peer P.A.L.S.® Program was presented nationally at the Autism One Conference in 2009. In 2010, the research, outcomes and replication model of the Peer P.A.L.S.® Program was published in The Autism File US Issue 36, 2010.

Training Description

Alanna Apap, M.S., BCBA leads this workshop with the goal of developing a custom plan using evidence-based practices to increase social interaction and initiations among pre-k and elementary autistic children. The time has come for a paradigm shift; from focusing and placing demands on autistic children to educating and training those that surround autistic children to provide support in an accepting environment. Participants will develop a plan where they find the time (planning) and use the time to the best advantage. By using Peer Mediated Instruction and Intervention (PMII) social interaction opportunities increase, as well as positive social interactions for neurodiverse and neurotypical learners. It's about time we help non autistic peers to see autistic peers as whole and having challenges rather than deficits. It's about time to redefine the natural setting in schools from a neurotypical design to an autism friendly environment reducing stress enough to promote social interactions. The presenter shares a fun token economy that motivates children who are not typically interested in playing or interacting with peers. By combining these evidence-based procedures we develop new attitudes and connections. Lastly Ms. Apap will introduce her Peer P.A.L.S.® Online Program.

Training Objectives

1. Participants will understand the importance of teaching social skills instruction and developing supports for friendship initiation for pre-k and elementary age children with autism.
2. Participants will identify the components needed to create classroom friendship initiation supports for children with autism.
3. Participants will be able to identify the components of the Peer P.A.L.S.® Program.

Date:

August 7, 2023

Where: Hope Center for Autism at 2580 SE Wiloughby Blvd., Stuart, FL 34994

Duration: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Audience: Educators, Speech and Language Therapists, Board Certified Behavior Analysts, Mental Health and Behavioral Health Therapists & providers, other professionals, parents

Register to view online:

<https://summer2023.eventbrite.com>

*Registration is mandatory.
Limited to first 100 participants.*

For more information:

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Be sure to contact your ESE District Staff or Staff Development contact to determine the process for receiving in-service.