

Professional Development

Parent-Implemented Strategies for Teaching Crucial Play Skills

Presented by: Melissa K. Burkhardt, M.S. Ed., BCBA Hosted by: FAU CARD

About the Presenter

Melissa K. Burkhardt, M.S. Ed., BCBA, the founder of Early Start Autism, is a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), a certified Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) therapist, and parent coach. She has over 28 years of experience working hands-on with young children with autism, behavioral challenges, and with their families. Melissa taught ESE Pre-K for 20 years in the public-school system and coaches teachers on utilizing evidencebased strategies to promote a child's success. She has partnered with a non-profit to offer a parent coaching scholarship to teach lower-income families how to utilize natural daily interactions to promote their child's development. Melissa was selected 2019 Service Provider of the Year-Community Inclusion Awards of Palm Beach County and is the national award-winning author of Autism Society's "2015 Dr. Temple Grandin Outstanding Literary Work of the Year," Exceptionally Good Friends: Building Relationships with Autism."

Training Description

Target Audience: (Parents and individuals with ASD)

Many parents of autistic children find it difficult to establish back-and-forth play with their child. Intentionally teaching your child play skills can increase your connection with your child, increase your child's language, social skills, motor and executive functioning skills necessary for success in school and life. This presentation will include how to (1) identify your child's developmental level of play (2) chose activities appropriate to your child's play level (3) establish back-and-forth play with your child (4) teach your child pretend play skills to promote language skills, and (5) use play to increase motivation and decrease problem behaviors.

Training Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Identify traits of autism that can attribute to delayed play skill development.
- Describe how play can increase a child's language development, social communication skills, and executive functioning skills.
- Explain the developmental sequence of play skills and why this information about your child is important to know.
- Describe and apply strategies to increase your child's ability to engage in back-andforth play.
- Apply strategies to increase your child's imitation skills.
- Create moments during the day to take advantage of the benefits of play.
- Develop a plan for the arrangement of environment and activities to encourage your child's play.
- Describe how intentionally promoting play can decrease problem behaviors.

FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

Date:

November 1-30, 2022 Registration: Open

Location:

Online, pre-recorded, 60-minute webinar

Registration Deadline:

September 30, 2022 Limited to first 500 participants

Register here

Registration is mandatory. Once registered, you will receive a link to view the presentation online.

For more information contact:

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

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