

Romance & Autism Spectrum Disorders: How to Navigate Relationships, Dating and Personal Safety

Presented by: Dr. Kimberly Spence, Ph.D.

Hosted by: UF-Gainesville CARD

About the Presenter

Dr. Kim Spence has served as the Coordinator of Educational and Training Programs for the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) since 1999 and as the Clinical Director of Autism Support Services for Specialized Treatment & Assessment Resources since 2017. Dr. Spence developed and began providing specialized sexuality education training for parents, teachers, and care providers of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in 2000, and has lectured internationally about creating visual supports, discriminating between maladaptive sexual behaviors versus mental health issues, and specialized educational and behavioral interventions to support healthy sexual knowledge for individuals with ASD across the lifespan. In 2001, Dr. Spence developed and began providing specialized training about autism and intellectual impairments with an emphasis on inappropriate social and sexual behaviors for emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, the criminal justice system, and public defender's offices across Florida. She has trained numerous law enforcement officers from all 67 districts within the state of Florida; provides training for the Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) Schools in all regions of Florida.

Training Description

Target Audience: parents, teachers, & care providers of individuals with ASD

This workshop is intended for adults with autism spectrum disorders, parents, teachers, and support staff; and will specifically address suggestions for engaging in safe romantic relationships involving physical and emotional intimacy. Strategies for communicating within relationships, dating safely, and skills for navigating challenging personal situations will be reviewed along with activities for practice during the workshop.

Training Objectives

Participants will understand and learn:

- How to safely engage in physical and emotional relationships.
- Strategies for communicating in relationships.
- Safe dating tips.
How to navigate challenging personal situations.

Date:

October 18, 2021
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm EST

Location:

Online

Registration Deadline:

October 18, 2021
Limited to first 300 participants

Register Online:

[Register here](#)

Registration is mandatory.

For more information contact:

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or (352) 265-2230

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