



## Sexuality & ASD: Supporting School-Aged Students Who Demonstrate Inappropriate or Dangerous Sexual Behavior at School

**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 disorder (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. Dr. Spence is an appointed Advisory Board Member of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) Advisory Board and has served nationally as a consultant and expert witness to state and federal public defenders regarding ASD and sexual behavior problems. Dr. Spence is a member of the Project Autism Spectrum Disorders Grant Advisory Committee at UCF; a consulting editor for the journal Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD); and serves on the editorial review board of the Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation (JVR).

### Training Description

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

This training will provide information and suggested strategies for teachers and other school-based personnel supporting school-aged individuals with ASD who may be engaging in sexually maladaptive behavior at school including touching others without permission, attempting to masturbate, unwanted attempts to engage in romantic relationships, and difficulty understanding physical boundaries with others. Current research regarding individuals with ASD who engage in sexually inappropriate behavior, as well as evidence-based teaching techniques to improve appropriate social interactions between students with ASD and their same-aged peers will be reviewed, along with case study illustrations. Examples of intervention plans and suggestions for program development will be discussed in addition to recommendations for: differentiating various types of friendships, developing personal safety plans, and assisting students in avoiding behavior defined as sexual harassment. This training is for teachers, parents, caretakers, and professionals only. It is not appropriate for children or adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. **CAUTION: Language, pictures, and images presented will be graphic in nature and may be offensive to some individuals.**

### Training Objectives

Participants will be able to effectively identify and demonstrate an understanding of:

- Current research regarding sexually maladaptive behavior by individuals with ASD.
- Specific, evidence-based teaching techniques best suited for intervening with sexually maladaptive behavior by students with ASD.
- Sexually maladaptive behaviors requiring the development of a safety plan for students with ASD.
- Evidence-based, intervention strategies for creating personal safety plans for individuals with ASD who engage in problem sexual behavior at school.

### Date:

October 19, 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:

[card-training@ufl.edu](mailto:card-training@ufl.edu)

or (352) 265-2230

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

