

# **Professional Development**

# 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 Health/Jacksonville CARD

#### **About the Presenter**

Dr. Kim Spence is the Clinical Director of Autism Support Services for Specialized Treatment & Assessment Resources and has worked for the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) since 1999 as an Autism Disorders Specialist. For the past 20 years she has lectured internationally regarding treatment supports, specialized therapeutic intervention, and the creation of specialized sexuality education programs for individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Dr. Spence began providing specialized sexuality education training for parents, teachers, and care providers of individuals with ASD in 2000 and has offered numerous trainings focused on 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. She has trained emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, and members of the criminal justice system across the nation since 2001 and is an appointed Advisory Board Member of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC). Dr. Spence serves as a consulting editor for the journal Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and on the editorial review board of the Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation (JVR).

## **Training Description**

#### Target Audience: (parents, teachers, and care providers of individuals with ASD)

This training will provide information and suggested strategies for teachers and other schoolpersonnel supporting school-aged students 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. This training is not appropriate for children, youth, or adults diagnosed with ASD. **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 identify and demonstrate an understanding of:

- Current research regarding sexually maladaptive behavior by individuals with ASD.
- 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 autism spectrum disorders who engage in problem sexual
- behavior at school.



Regional Trainings are hosted by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, through the Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism (PEPSA), a program funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, K-12 Public Schools, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B.





**When:** October 27, 2021

Where: Online

**Time:** 4:00 – 6:00 PM

**Registration Deadline:** October 26, 2021 Limited to first 300 participants

#### **Register Online:**

<u>Register here</u> Registration is mandatory.

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