

2024 Workshop Catalogue:

Training Series: *A Starting Point* ©

A Starting Point©: 9-Week Workshop Series

"A Starting Point" is a comprehensive, 9-week (2 hours per week) training on key topics related to autism. This training series incorporates didactic instruction with many practical strategies. It also includes time to learn and practice those strategies, thus building confidence to use them with your students or children.

Weekly Topics:

Week 1 - An Introduction to Autism: In order to support an autistic individual, it is essential that one understands the components of autism that impact the way in which the individual experiences the world. This training will lay the foundation for all subsequent weeks.

Week 2 - Visual Structure: Learn what visual structure is and why it is so important to an individual on the spectrum. Learn strategies to implement visual structure in a variety of settings.

Week 3 - Communication in Autism: Communication challenges or differences affect all individuals with autism. Learn the multiple facets of communication, and what strategies and programs will support growth in this area.

Week 4 -Understanding Sensory Integration: Through an interactive presentation and participation in centers that challenge our senses, participants learn how sensory integration challenges impact behaviors and one's ability to meet the demands of the environment.

Week 5 - Self-Regulation: How the body interprets input, and that interpretation's impact on emotional regulation, plays a vital role in day-to-day life. Participants explore strategies to support an individual with both physical and emotional regulation.

Week 6 - Independent Work Systems: Learn about the systems that can be developed to support an autistic person in the educational, vocational, and leisure settings. These systems teach independence and the concept of "finished".

Week 7 -Visual Strategies to Support Independence: Participants will review basic life strategies such as help, wait, break and more. Learn about how to teach these important life skills to a neurodivergent student.

Week 8 -Proactive Behavior Supports: Autism is often described by behavior. Though it is described by behaviors it is not a behavior disorder. Learn what may be causing challenging behavior in an autistic individual and what strategies we can use to support them.

Week 9 - Panel Discussion: During this panel discussion, families will share experiences of receiving an autism diagnosis for their child. This session also serves as an opportunity for participants to ask questions of families, and to learn about autism from each family's unique perspective.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Are these workshops offered virtually or in-person?

Both! These workshops are available to be delivered over Zoom or in-person.

Q. Do we have to do the training over 9 weeks?

You can arrange the 18 hours of training in any way you wish!

Q. Can I change the length of each workshop?

Yes! We can do each workshop in as little as 90 minutes (some as little as 60 minutes).

Q. Can I schedule a call? I have more questions.

Of course! Reach out to Emily Dwyer to set up a zoom or phone call. Please provide your availability.

Q. What is the cost of the series?

Series cost is dependent upon audience size, as well as whether the training is in-person, or virtual. Please provide that information to Emily and she can discuss cost. A written training proposal will be provided upon request.

Contact Information

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