



PROJECT ACT

Special Needs Training & Technical Assistance

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www.anprojectact.org

PROJECT ACT TRAINING DESCRIPTIONS

Project ACT has been awarded a generous grant from the Maryland State Department of Education to offer child care providers trainings in the area of special needs. As part of this grant, if you provide care for children ages birth through 3 years old, you have the ability to receive training and technical assistance. Project ACT is devoted to child care providers and the need to create more inclusive practice in the infant and toddler environment.

All Project ACT trainings are hands-on and interactive. We believe active participants learn more! We encourage participants to share their thoughts, ideas, questions and experiences in order to learn from each other as they explore training materials.

All of our Training Consultants are Project ACT Staff and have advanced degrees in Special Education, Early Childhood Education, Social Work and/or Counseling. Project ACT training modules are created by specialists in their respective fields. All of our trainings are approved by the Maryland State Department of Education – Office of Child Care Credentialing and provide participants with Core of Knowledge Hours.

ADHD I: Learning the Basics (3 hours)

This workshop will introduce participants to what Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) really is and dispel the myths associated with the disorder. Participants will learn about possible red flags, how ADHD is diagnosed, what the latest research indicates about children with ADHD, and general teaching strategies that assist with teaching a child who has ADHD.

Core of Knowledge Area: Special Needs (3 hours); Level: Beginning to Intermediate

Autism I: Learning the Basics (3 hours) (SA)

This training provides an overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and helps participants understand the complexities related to working with children with ASD. It reviews current research and types of successful intervention strategies. Participants learn practical strategies for assisting children with ASD in the classroom. **Core of Knowledge Area: Special Needs (3 hours); Level: Beginner**

Autism III: Connecting the Circle of Friends (3 hours) (SA)

This interactive training helps participants to understand the challenges children on the Autism Spectrum may face with communication, play skills and social skills. Participants will learn strategies and have a chance to practice using augmentative communication, the D.I.R. Floor Time model created by Greenspan and Wieder, and using social stories and social scripts. Participants interested in this training should take Autism Spectrum Disorders: Learning the Basics or have prior knowledge of ASD.

Core of Knowledge Area: Special Needs (3 hours); Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Building Early Literacy Through Expressive Arts (3 hours)

This training builds participants' knowledge and understanding of the ways in which the expressive arts can enhance children's literacy. Participants learn specific and practical strategies for promoting literacy skills through movement, play, music and visual arts. These strategies will assist teachers in creating learning environments which promote knowledge acquisition, creativity and positive self-esteem for all children, including those with special needs.

Core of Knowledge Area: Curriculum (2 hours) & Special Needs (1 hour); Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Creating a Social Connection: Learning to Write Social Stories to Help all Children Be Successful in a Variety of Settings (2 hours)

This interactive training will provide participants with a complete introduction to the concept of Carol Gray's Social Stories. Social stories were originally created for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in order to increase their ability to take in "social information," also known as pragmatics or pragmatic language. Social stories are also beneficial to all children because of their sentence structure, content and use of pictures and so participants will learn how social stories can be beneficial to all children in their care. Participants will first learn about, and then practice writing, the different types of sentences that are often included in social stories and then write a complete social story about an activity or skill that will impact a child or children in their care.

Core of Knowledge Area: Curriculum (1 hour) & Special Needs (1 hour); Level: Beginner to Advanced

Developmental Delays (2 or 3 hour)

This training provides participants with knowledge and strategies for teaching children with developmental delays. Participants review characteristics of typical child development from birth through five, discuss "red flags," developmental screening tools, developmental delays and adaptations to assist children with developmental delays. Through interactive simulations, participants will gain an understanding of the challenges children with developmental delays face and have an opportunity to develop accommodations they can utilize in their classrooms.

**Core of Knowledge Area 2 hours: Child Development (1 hour) & Special Needs (1 hour); Level: Beginner to Intermediate or
Core of Knowledge Area 3 hours: Special Needs (3 hours); Level: Beginner to Intermediate**

Encouraging Healthy Social Emotional Development in the Young Child Ages 0- 3 (2 hours)

This training will increase participants' knowledge of healthy social and emotional development in young children ages, birth through three years old. Participants will be able to define social development, emotional development and attachment. Beginning in 3 month blocks, participants will learn the different developmental expectations of infants and toddlers as well as activities targeted to increase their social and emotional development. Through activities and case scenarios, participants will gain insight in the best uses of positive discipline, communicating with families and creating an infant/toddler classroom environment.

Core of Knowledge Area: Child Development (2 hour) Level: Intermediate

Encouraging Healthy Social Emotional Development in the Young Child Ages 0-5 (2- 3 Hour)

This training will increase participants' knowledge of healthy social and emotional development in early childhood. Participants will gain an overview of healthy development, ways to recognize major milestones, "red flags" which may indicate possible delays, and strategies to use to promote social and emotional competencies in children ages birth through five. **Core of Knowledge Area 2 hours: Child Development (1 hour) & Special Needs (1 hour); Level: Beginner to Intermediate Core of Knowledge Area 3 hours: Child Development (1 hour) & Special Needs (2 hours); Level: Beginner to Intermediate**

The Essence of Language: Appreciating the Importance of Language Development for Children Birth - 5 Years (3 hours)

This training provides participants with an overview of children's typical language development from birth through five, possible "red flags" for language delays and how to assist English Language Learners. Through interactive activities, reviews of research and video, participants share their expertise and gain a comprehensive knowledge of language development and how to assist all children in improving their communication skills.

Core of Knowledge Area: Child Development (1.5 hours) & Special Needs (1.5 hours); Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Introduction to Inclusion: Educating All Children Together (3 hours) (SA)

In this interactive training, participants will learn about including children with special needs in their child care. The civil rights laws that protect persons with disabilities will be reviewed and participants will learn what these laws require of child care settings. Participants will become familiar with ideas to utilize when adapting their learning environment to accommodate children of varying abilities and will understand how these accommodations benefit all children and families. **Core of Knowledge Area: Special Needs (2 hours) & Professionalism (1 hour); Level: Beginner to Intermediate**

I Won't and You Can't Make Me (3 hours)

In this highly informative training, participants will be exposed to the differences in processing skills in children who display **oppositional and explosive behaviors**. The collaborative problem-solving approach developed by Drs. Ross Green and J. Stuart Ablon will be explained and participants will gain strategies to use in their early childhood setting to understand and support very challenging behaviors. This training includes 3 different vignettes to allow participants to use the collaborative problem-solving approach in a practical way. * It is suggested that participants first take one of our other behavior trainings, Time In (2 hour) or Using a Positive Approach to Address Challenging Behaviors (3 hour) before taking this training.

Core of Knowledge Area 3 hours: Special Needs (3 hours); Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Keys to Inclusion and Behavior Management (2 or 3 hours)

This training addresses best practices in Early Childhood Education with regards to inclusion and behavior management. Through hands-on activities and experiences, teachers will explore and increase their familiarity with best practices, such as an engaging classroom arrangement, balanced visual schedules, effective transitions, how to best utilize classroom staff, using proactive language for behavior management, and the importance of teaching about emotions.

Core of Knowledge Area 2 hours: Curriculum (1 hour) & Special Needs (1 hour); Level: Beginner to Intermediate or Core of Knowledge Area 3 hours: Curriculum (2 hours) & Special Needs (1 hour); Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Multiple Intelligences: Discovering Gifts & Empowering Children (2 or 3 hours) (SA)

This training introduces participants to the theory of Multiple Intelligences and innovative teaching ideas which will assist in making their classroom an enhanced learning environment for children of all abilities. Participants will learn to identify the unique learning strengths of children and how to apply practical strategies to promote inclusive and empowering learning opportunities for all.

Core of Knowledge Area 2 Hours: Curriculum (1 hour) & Special Needs (1 hour); Level: Beginner to Intermediate Core of Knowledge Area 3 Hours: Curriculum (1 hours) & Special Needs (2 hour); Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Now, Doesn't That Make Sense (2 hours)

This training introduces the participant to sensory processing dysfunction and sensory integration disorder and provides many easy-to-use strategies to implement in your classroom setting to address various sensory needs for all children.

Core of Knowledge Area : Special Needs (2 hours); Level: Intermediate to Advanced;

Sensory Sensitivity (3 hours) (SA)

This training provides participants with an understanding of sensory integration, sensory integration dysfunction, and how sensory issues can impact children with autism spectrum disorders. It discusses ways to include 'sensory diets' and sensory activities that assist children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) to be successful in their learning environments. Participants interested in this training should take Autism Spectrum Disorders: Learning the Basics or have prior knowledge of ASD.

Core of Knowledge Area 3 hours: Special Needs (1.5 hours) & Curriculum (1.5 hour); Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Setting up For Success: Adapting Environments to Promote Inclusive Practices (3 hours) (SA)

This interactive training will build participants knowledge and understand of the importance of making accommodations to create more inclusive environments. This training will also provide participants with appropriate strategies and suggestions for providing appropriate and reasonable accommodations for ensuring successful inclusion of children with special needs with their typically developing peers.

Core of Knowledge Area: Special Needs (1.5 Hours) & Curriculum (1.5 Hours); Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Social Inclusion: Playing Learning & Growing Together (3 hours) (SA)

This training will focus on building participants knowledge concerning the appropriate ways to strengthen social relationships among children and youth. This training's emphasis is particularly on those individuals with special needs who lack close, positive peer associations and the ways in which educators can assist all students with providing social support to students of all abilities. **Core of Knowledge Area: Special Needs (1.5 Hours) & Curriculum (1.5 Hours); Level: Intermediate to Advanced**

Time In: Understanding and Preventing Behavior (2 hours)

We must first understand behavior before we can begin to prevent behavior issues. During this training, participants explore reasons for behavior and possible motivators of behaviors. Participants will utilize tools to help in identifying the reason for the behavior and ways to prevent future issues, so that they can provide a nurturing learning environment for all children. Participants will explore preventive strategies to implement in their classrooms and how these affect children's behavior.

Core of Knowledge Area: Special Needs (2 hours); Level: Beginner

Traumatic Events: Helping Our Children Cope During and After a Crisis (3 hours)

This informative and interactive training provides an understanding of personal/family, community and global traumatic events as well as how such events may possibly affect children in their development. Practical strategies are provided focusing on ways to help children feel safe, empowered, and eager to engage in regular activities. *It is recommended that participants take "Promoting Resiliency in Early Childhood" prior to receiving this training.*

Core of Knowledge Area: Health, Safety and Nutrition (2 hours) & Special Needs (1 hour); Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Understanding Temperament: Implications for Working with Young Children (3 hours)

In this training, participants will learn the definition of temperament and its nine traits, the three main types of temperament and the term, 'goodness of fit.' Through partner discussions, chart activities and case scenarios, participants will actively investigate the best ways to create an environment that will allow for differences in temperament. Temperament as it relates to children with special needs will be explored along with strategies to encourage peer-modeling and the building of social skills.

Core of Knowledge Area 3 hours: Child Development (2 hours) & Special Needs (1 hour); Level: Intermediate

Understanding Learning Disabilities (3 hours) (SA)

During this training, participants will gain knowledge of different types of learning disabilities. Through simulations and video clips, participants will explore the challenges of having a learning disability and how frustrating it can be for a child. This presentation will highlight some of the red flags in young children that might lead to a later diagnosis of a learning disability; and highlight teaching strategies and specific accommodations that meet the needs of all children, especially those children with learning disabilities.

Core of Knowledge Area: Special Needs (3 hours); Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Understanding Oppositional Defiant Disorder: An ODD Experience! (3 hours) (SA)

This training introduces participants to Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD). Participants will understand the possible causes of ODD and the common behavioral characteristics that often accompany this disorder. Through interactive discussions and video clips, participants receive insight into the thought processes of a child with ODD. This training discusses recommendations for managing the behaviors of children with ODD as well as guided role playing scenarios for reducing oppositional behaviors in the classroom.

Core of Knowledge Area: Special Needs (3 hours); Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Using a Positive Approach to Address Challenging Behaviors (3 hours)

This interactive training will define the term, "behavior" and discuss the four main motivators for behaviors. This training will engage participants to discover how to redirect and shape behavior while encouraging positive social and emotional skill-building in children. Global classroom strategies will be reviewed to encourage positive behavior in all children. Participants will leave this training with several strategies they can choose to implement immediately in their educational setting.

Core of Knowledge Area: Child Development (2 hours) & Special Needs (1 hour); Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Using Visual Supports to Create Inclusive Environments (3 hours)

During this training workshop participants will learn what visual supports are as well as how visual supports can be utilized in their classrooms to support an inclusive environment. This training workshop will discuss various benefits and the importance of utilizing visual supports in their classroom setting in efforts to assist children in being successful. Concluding this training, participants will be provided with simple materials to create visual supports as well as have an opportunity to complete a make and take visual supports activity.

Core of Knowledge Area: Special Needs (1 Hour) & Curriculum (2 Hours); Level: Beginner

Utilizing Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis in Preschool Classrooms (3 hours)

During this workshop, participants will gain an understanding of the rationale for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) as a behavior based classroom practice. Participants will have an opportunity to explore positive strategies that will promote active learning for children of all abilities. Participants will also discuss the importance of evidence based practices to best support students with autism while learning successful approaches to implementing ABA techniques within the preschool classroom.

Core of Knowledge Area: Child Development (2 hours) & Special Needs (1 hour) Level: Intermediate to Advanced

What Should We Play With? Activities for Infants and Toddlers (3 Hours)

This training will support teachers who want to add engaging learning experiences into their daily routines. After reviewing typical development, participants will explore several best practices that lend themselves to supporting learners with varying developmental needs in infant and toddler classrooms.

Core of Knowledge Area: Child Development (2 hours) & Special Needs (1 hour) Level: Intermediate

What Should We Talk About? Best Practices in Communicating with Infants and Toddlers(3 Hours)

This training is designed to provide participants with a variety of communication tools they can embed into their daily practices to support the language development of infants and toddlers. Through a series of interactive activities, teachers will gain skills and confidence to use new skills when they return to their programs. **PREREQUISTE** Participants should be able to recognize and demonstrate the importance of using various techniques to develop language and communication skills with infants and toddlers.

Core of Knowledge Area: Child Development (2 hours) & Special Needs (1 hour) Level: Competent