

Project ACT Skill Builders Series Descriptions

Skill Builders Series are designed to give Child Care Professionals the opportunity for an in-depth exploration of a particular topic. Throughout the series, participants will build on what they are learning through extension activities. All of our Training Consultants are Project ACT Staff and have 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 and provide participants with Core of Knowledge Hours. Do you have specific needs for your staff? Ask us about designing a custom series. *Skill Builders Series are offered at 15% off the regular training fee!*

Autism 101 (9 hours)

Autism I: Learning the Basics	Sensory Sensitivity	Strategies in The Classroom Environment: Applied Behavior Analysis in Action
An overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and 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.	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 activities that assist children with ASD to be successful in their learning environments.	This training introduces the concept of applied behavior analysis (ABA) and identifies how ABA can be used as a teaching method in early childhood education to help increase skills or decrease challenging behaviors. Through interactive activities, teachers will learn a variety of strategies that will support children's distinctive personality, behavior style, and temperament by adapting their classroom or learning environment in ways that will meet the needs of all children.
<i>Special Needs (3 hours)</i>	<i>Special Needs (1.5 hours) & Curriculum (1.5 hour)</i>	Core of Knowledge Area: Special Needs (2 hours) & Child Development (1 hour)

Tiny Tots (8 hours)

Understanding Temperament: Implications for Working with Young Children	Routines and Cultures	What Should We Talk About? Best Practices in Communicating with Infants and Toddlers
Learn the definition of temperament and the term, 'goodness of fit.' Participants will actively investigate the best ways to create an	Caregivers have a profound effect on the development of infants and toddlers because they engage in basic activities, toileting, feeding,	Learn a variety of communication tools that can be embedded into daily practices to support the language development of infants

environment that will allow for differences in temperament. Temperament as it relates to children with special needs will be explored.	and napping. Participants will consider these routines and how culture influences each of them.	and toddlers. Gain confidence to use new skills.
<i>Child Development (2 hours) & Special Needs (1 hour)</i>	<i>Curriculum (1 hour) & Child Development (1 hour)</i>	<i>Child Development (2 hours) & Special Needs (1 hour)</i>

Ready to Read (8 hours)

Language: The Key to Literacy	Building Early Literacy Through Expressive Arts	How to Create a Meaningful Lesson Plan
Showcases the importance of how strong language skills promote literacy. Review ways to promote language development as highlighted by key research studies. Gain thorough understanding of how language impacts literacy and how to promote learning opportunities so that all children begin school with a wealth of words.	Builds understanding of the ways in which the expressive arts can enhance children's literacy. Learn specific, practical strategies for promoting literacy skills through movement, play, music and visual arts. Create learning environments which promote knowledge acquisition, creativity and positive self-esteem for all children, including those with special needs.	Lesson plans support the goals and objectives that you set for the children. Writing plans that focus on all areas of the curriculum and changes to the environment will assist in planning for the group as well as differentiated instruction. The inclusion of assessment on your plans will also help to support documentation of children's growth and development.
<i>Curriculum (2 hours) & Child Development (1 hour)</i>	<i>Curriculum (2 hours) & Special Needs (1 hour)</i>	<i>Curriculum (2 hours)</i>

Positive Guidance (9 hours)

Keys to Inclusion and Behavior Management	Using a Positive Approach to Address Challenging Behaviors	I Won't and You Can't Make Me
Addresses best practices in Early Childhood Education with regards to inclusion and behavior management. Explore best practices such as an engaging classroom arrangement, balanced schedules, effective transitions, how to utilize classroom staff, proactive language, and teaching about emotions.	Defines the term "behavior" and discuss the four main motivators for behaviors. Discover how to redirect and shape behavior while encouraging positive social and emotional skill-building in children. Leave this training with several strategies that can be implemented immediately.	Learn the differences in processing skills in children who display oppositional and explosive behaviors. The collaborative problem-solving approach will be explained. Learn strategies to use in early childhood settings to manage very challenging behaviors.
<i>Curriculum (2 hours) & Special Needs (1 hour)</i>	<i>Child Development (2 hours) & Special Needs (1 hour)</i>	<i>Special Needs (3 hours)</i>

Purposeful Planning & Portfolios (9 hours)

Developmentally Appropriate Practice: Recognizing the Essentials	Connecting Assessment to Curriculum and Instruction	Capturing Child Development Through Portfolios
Teaches the essentials of Developmentally Appropriate Practice (known as DAP) so that	Explains the assessment-instructional cycle. Leave with an understanding of how to assess	Gain an in-depth introduction to portfolios and their purpose. Examine what comprises a portfolio

teachers can use knowledge about child development to create a program for the age and stage of development of their children. Learn the 5 essentials of DAP.	children, analyze the data and make modifications to the curriculum to meet the learning needs of all children.	and learn how to appropriately collect samples and observations. Gain a greater understanding of the connection between compiling a portfolio and understanding a child's individual development.
<i>Curriculum (3 hours)</i>	<i>Child Development (3 Hours)</i>	<i>Child Development (3 Hours)</i>

Full STEAM Ahead (8 hours)

Discover STEM	Lego [®] ON: Building Your Preschooler One Colorful Brick at a Time	Developmentally Appropriate Art
STEM focuses on student's engagement and skills from the earliest grades in science, math and technology to help foster interest for their later school years and careers. The goal is to grow the proficiency level of students in sciences and mathematics. Introduces to STEM and its importance as well as relevance in ECE programs.	Fun strategies to implement involving Legos across all learning domains. Learn that Legos are not just for building objects, but are for building essential skills that will help their children succeed. Pre-requisite knowledge and application of intentionally using play as the foundation for learning and development in all domains is required.	Learn how to implement a developmentally appropriate art curriculum and how to create an environment where art is an integral part of the day. Explore visual arts, how to implement a variety of art experiences for children of all ages, and the educator's role in facilitating creative art activities and engaging children in conversations.
<i>Curriculum (2 hours)</i>	<i>Curriculum (3 hours)</i>	<i>Curriculum (2 hours) & Community (1 hour)</i>

Let's Play Together (8 hours)

Social Inclusion: Playing Learning & Growing Together (3 hours)	Teaching Problem Solving Throughout the Day	How to Cope with Bullying Behaviors
Build knowledge concerning the appropriate ways to strengthen social relationships among children and youth. Focus on ways in which educators can assist individuals with special needs who lack close, positive peer associations and the all students with providing social support to students of all abilities.	Learn the importance of being intentional when teaching children how to problem solve. Study the effects of understanding how to problem solve on social and emotional development and the overall effects on academic success. Learn how to teach social problem solving steps to children.	Learn to identify the causes and signs of bullying behavior in children as well as understand the reasons why some children have bullying behaviors. Participants will receive strategies for handling both bullies and their victims in order to provide a safe learning environment for all children.
<i>Special Needs (1.5 Hours) & Curriculum (1.5 Hours)</i>	<i>Child Development (3 Hours)</i>	<i>Health, Safety and Nutrition (2 hours)</i>

Fun with Feelings (6 hours)

Encouraging Healthy Social Emotional Development	Fun with Feelings: Activities that Promote Emotional Intelligence	Promoting Resiliency in Early Childhood-
Increase knowledge of healthy social and emotional development	Learn fun activities to assist children in exploring their feelings to	Gain an understanding of resiliency, and the important role attachment

for 0-5 year olds. An overview of healthy development, ways to recognize major milestones, “red flags” which may indicate possible delays.	promote Emotional Intelligence. Learn about the connection between Multiple Intelligences and Emotional Intelligence, and about potential “red flag” behaviors.	plays in helping children. Learn factors that contribute to the formation of attachment and discover strategies that can be used to promote resiliency in children.
<i>Child Development (1 hour) & Special Needs (1 hours)</i>	<i>Child Development (1 hour) & Special Needs (1 hour)</i>	<i>Child Development (2 hours)</i>