



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

☆ *Pairs well with a Make & Take!*

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

☆ *Pairs well with a Make & Take!*

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

☆ *Pairs well with a Make & Take!*

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**

☆ *Pairs well with a Make & Take!*

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

☆ *Pairs well with a Make & Take!*

Fun with Feelings: Activities that Promote Emotional Intelligence (2 or 3 hours)

During this training, participants will learn strategies and "fun" activities to assist preschool and school aged children in exploring their feelings for the purpose of promoting Emotional Intelligence. Participants will learn about the connection between Multiple Intelligences and Emotional Intelligence. Participants will explore sample "feeling stations," and learn about potential "red flag" behaviors in children that may need to be addressed by a mental health professional.

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 (1.5 hour) & Special Needs (1.5 hours); Level: Beginner to Intermediate

☆ *Pairs well with a Make & Take!*

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**

☆ *Pairs well with a Make & Take!*

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

☆ *Pairs well with a Make & Take!*

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

☆ *Pairs well with a Make & Take!*

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;

***NEW!* Simple Sign Language**

In this training, participants will learn about American Sign Language and how the use of multiple modes of communication can benefit all learners. Through fun and engaging activities, participants will learn 20 simple signs that are useful in an early childhood setting. Using current research and a variety of resources, this training will discuss how using sign in the early childhood classroom supports children with special needs. Participants will learn strategies for teaching signs to young children and engaging families.

Core of Knowledge Area: Special Needs (2 hours)

Pairs well with a Make & Take!

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

☆ *Pairs well with a Make & Take!*

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

☆ *Pairs well with a Make & Take!*

***NEW!* Strategies in The Classroom Environment: Applied Behavior Analysis in Action (3 hours)**

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 to 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.

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

NEW! The Possibility of Discovery: Using Loose Parts to Enhance Children’s Learning

Play is how the brain learns best. In this training, participants will discover new ways to enhance children’s learning by adding loose parts to their play. We will use interactive games and activities to explore open ended play and its benefits. Participants will learn about how to choose and source loose parts to add to their environments. Participants will discover how play with loose parts supports children’s development across domains and how to use this approach to include and support children with special needs.

Core of Knowledge Area: Child Development (1 hour), Curriculum (1 hour) & Special Needs (1 hour)

NEW! Take a Step Back: The Importance of Behavioral Observation

Observation is the key to changing children’s behaviors. Hands-on activities will allow providers to identify the function of behavior and strategies to help change the behaviors.

Core of Knowledge Area: Child Development (1 Hour) & Special Needs (1 Hour)

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
***NEW!* Universal Design for Learning with Infants and Toddlers (3 hours)**

UDL is used to meet the needs of diverse learners. In this training, participants will gain an understanding of how UDL applies to our youngest learners. They will learn strategies to purposefully plan for and include all infants and toddlers.

Core of Knowledge Area: Curriculum (1.5 hour) and Special Needs (1.5 hours)

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

☆ *Pairs well with a Make & Take!*

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

☆ *Pairs well with a Make & Take!*

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

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