March 12, 2019

Dear Director of Special Education/Building Administrator:

This letter is being sent to invite participation in training professionals/paraprofessionals to educate and support students with autism spectrum disorders across grade levels. IRCA will offer team training to three different audiences at the same time: 1) traditional autism teams (4-6 members) from school districts; 2) individual autism leaders/consultants; and 3) other professional staff.

Autism Leaders/Consultants: We realize that many districts have new autism leaders with a range of experience and training. If you want to send only your autism leader, we will charge $250 for all six days of training.

Professional Staff: If you want to attend as an individual (and are not an autism leader), the cost is $350 for 6 days.

Traditional Autism Teams: Teams vary in size from 4-6. A seventh person can be added, if they are a family member. This year training costs remain at $1,300 for the entire team. This cost has remained the same for the past 20 plus years.

This letter explains the training process in more detail. Those involved in the training will be eligible for professional growth points and BCBA Type II Credits. Other CEUs for may also be available.

I realize that this training opportunity requires an allocation of resources and personnel. Our commitment is to provide current information that is applicable and reflects evidence-based practices and the realities of our schools. I appreciate your willingness to consider this training. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 812-855-6508 or e-mail me at prattc@indiana.edu.

Please email no later than August 1, 2019 your interest in participating. Team training starts earlier this year. You do not have to have specific team members identified.

Sincerely,

Cathy Pratt, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Director
Indiana Resource Center for Autism
Indiana Resource Center for Autism
Evidence-Based Autism Team Training

We continue to re-examine the team training process. While the basic goals remain the same (achieving improved student outcomes), we continue to evolve some aspects of this training.

First, we realize that many of you have already trained many teams. With that said, look at this as a strategy for getting six additional people trained plus one parent. The goal may not be to build another autism team for your district, but just to strengthen the knowledge base of professionals in your district.

Again, as an added feature this year, we are offering the option of only training your autism leader for $250 or another interested professional (who is not an autism leader) for $350.

Second, we continue to teach and utilize the Evidence-Based Practices that have been part of our involvement in the National Professional Development Center in Autism Spectrum Disorders grant. These evidence-based practices come with documented research. A new report released in 2014 has meant changes to these evidence-based practices and has expanded the original 24 to 27. With the interest in Applied Behavior Analysis, the training will also cover aspects of this technology. In addition, with an increasing focus on mental health issues among this population, we will infuse information into the training related to those with a dual diagnosis. Universal Design for Learning will also be addressed.

We will not be spending as much time on characteristics. Instead, we will go deeper into implementation, and staff will be available to coach individual teams during and after the training, if you choose.

And a new feature, teams will come home with an implementation plan that addresses perceived needs in their district and looks at sustainable efforts.

The format of the training will be similar and is as follows:

- Three two-day training sessions will be conducted during the 2019-2020 school year: September 5 and 6, 2019; October 1 and 2, 2019; and February 27 and 28, 2020.

- Training sessions will occur in Bloomington, Indiana.

In order to be part of the team training process, here is what we need from you:

- The name of your autism leader, professional staff member, or identification of 4-7 staff members who can make a commitment to
participate in all training sessions. Staff members can represent various disciplines, including therapists, general educators, special educators, paraprofessionals, psychologists, and administrators. In the past, it has also been incredibly helpful to include family members in the training. As such, we are allowing an extra space (the 7th space) for family members only. Not all team members have to be identified prior to training.

- For those coming as teams, access to the district autism coach/leader who will work with IRCA staff to promote ongoing collaboration, and to ensure that information concerning the training is disseminated.

- Administrative and fiscal support to attend training sessions in Bloomington and to engage in ongoing activities. Since the training is in Bloomington, there may be costs associated with travel and lodging. We will send lodging information later.

- Understanding and commitment from participants to engage.

Here is what you can expect from us:

- Extensive training in developing and implementing programs for individuals across the autism spectrum that reflect evidence-based practices, applied behavior analysis, and information related to co-occurring challenges.

- A training module that can be used in your local school district or with your local agency. This will include the literature base for all the evidence-based practices.

- Upon request, IRCA staff to assist with completing assigned tasks and conducting follow-up, or visits to your district by a staff member from IRCA to network and collaborate in your area. If significant support is required, an additional cost may be negotiated for this work.

Participation in this process is being offered statewide. Please email no later than August 1, 2019 your interest in participating. At that time, you may not have identified all participants. That is fine. We will contact you to verify participants in the fall.

Also, let us know if there are any specific topics or issues you would like to see addressed in the training. Please email those as well to prattc@indiana.edu.
Indiana Resource Center for Autism
Application for Participation in Evidence-Based Practices Autism Team Training

Please complete the information below and return no later than August 1, 2019 to:

Dr. Cathy Pratt
IRCA/IIDC
1905 North Range Road
Bloomington, IN 47408-2696
or
FAX: 812-855-9630
or
E-Mail: prattc@indiana.edu

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Topics You Would Like Covered: