



Autism and Asperger Syndrome

From Assessment to Treatment

Michael D. Powers, Psy.D.

Program Description

With prevalence now estimated at 1:100, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) have become a widespread concern.

This program synthesizes current research and practice on the etiology, diagnosis, assessment, treatment, and evaluation of ASDs.

Participants will learn to distinguish diagnostic issues for various ASDs and the relationship between core neurocognitive assets and deficits to learning, social, communication, and behavioral issues that may be present from early childhood through young adulthood.

This program provides a guide to evidence-based care based on current research.

Objectives: Participants will be able to describe

- Diagnostic features of Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Critical social and communication challenges faced by children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Describe evidence-based interventions for treating social and communication deficits in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Reasons challenging behaviors develop
- Specific causes of challenging behavior
- Evidence-based interventions to address challenging behavior
- Positive support procedures that will decrease the likelihood of behavioral regression
- Procedural and ethical safeguards necessary for effective intervention

J&K Seminars Home Study Program - 12 hours credit

1 Autism & Asperger Syndrome Basics

- Core deficits
- Theories of causation
- Genetics
- Neuropsychological assets and deficits

2 Diagnosis and Differential Diagnosis

3 Assessment & Treatment of Social Skills

- Social skills training
- Group and individual treatment

4 Assessment & Treatment of Communication Challenges

- Skills for home and community participation
- Social communication and conversation skills

5 Understanding Challenging Behaviors

- Goals of assessment and treatment
- Situations that “set the stage” for behavior

6 Assessment of Challenging Behaviors

- Assessment of behavioral function
- Identifying replacement behaviors

7 Treatment of Challenging Behavior Strategies for Home, Classroom, and Community

- Integrating treatment planning with social and communication objectives
- Functional communication training
- Developing positive behavioral supports

8 Insuring Treatment Effectiveness

- Evaluation of treatment effectiveness
- Ethical issues in treatment
- Wrap-up and closing comments

Michael D. Powers, Psy.D.

Dr. Michael D. Powers is the Director of The Center for Children with Special Needs in Glastonbury, Connecticut and Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychology at the Yale Child Study Center, Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Powers specializes in the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of individuals with autism and related developmental disabilities and has published and presented extensively on these topics.

He is also the author of *Asperger Syndrome and Your Child*, the editor of the award-winning book *Children with Autism: A Parent's Guide*, (second edition), and co-editor (with Drs. Volkmar, Klin & Paul) of the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Autism*. Dr. Powers has been involved in designing educational programs, staff training, and in program evaluation for students with autism spectrum disorders throughout the United States and

abroad for over 25 years.

He has worked with the York District Regional School Board in Ontario, Canada; Foundation Fabiotti in Arezzo, Siena, and Prato, Italy; the Bedfordshire County Council (UK) School Improvement Division; the Utah, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Florida State Departments of Education; and various regional and local school districts.

Dr. Powers is a member of the Professional Advisory Board of MAAP Services for Autism and Asperger Syndrome, The Geneva Centre for Autism in Toronto, and former member of the Board of Directors of the Autism Society of America.

Approved Home Study CE Hours for Psychologists Counselors Social Workers Nurses AOTA

Available for an additional fee - See Exam Enclosed

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