



# Autism Spectrum Disorders Best Practices for Assessment and Interventions

Presented by

**Celine A. Saulnier, Ph.D.**

**Overview & Agenda:** This course will help practitioners identify, assess, diagnose, and accommodate the symptoms of ASD and co-occurring conditions from infancy through adulthood. The first 4 Sessions cover screening, detection, and diagnostic evaluations using state-of-the-art measures, including how telehealth practices and scientific biomarkers can be used to help inform the diagnostic process. The second four sessions cover evidence-based intervention practices, as well as educational, therapeutic, adaptive, and vocational supports and accommodations.

## Clinical Features of & Epidemiological Update on ASD

(2 hr 17 min 31 sec)

- Diagnostic Criteria for ASD
- Risk Factors in Infancy
- Prevalence and Epidemiological Statistics
- Race, Ethnic, and Socioeconomic Disparities

## Screening and Detection Methods

- Research on Genetic & Environmental Influences on ASD
- Screeners for Infants, Toddlers, and School-Age Individuals
- Use of Biomarkers to Detect ASD

## Comprehensive Developmental Approach to Evaluation

(1 hr 40min 38 sec)

- Assessing Cognition and Adaptive Behavior
- Assessing Speech/Language/Communication Skills
- Conducting a Diagnostic History
- Direct and Remote Diagnostic Assessment Measures

## Diagnostic Differentials and Co-Occurring Conditions

(1 hr 26 min 45 sec)

- Assessing Social-Emotional & Behavioral Skills
- Neuropsychological Assessments
- Common Diagnostic Differentials and Co-Occurring Conditions

Dr. Saulnier is a Georgia licensed psychologist. She obtained her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Connecticut. She trained and worked within the Yale Child Study Center for nearly a decade, where she became the Training Director of the Autism Program and Clinical Director of the Developmental Disabilities Clinic.

In 2011, she relocated to Emory University School of Medicine and the Marcus Autism Center in Atlanta, GA, where she directed a large-scale clinical research program.

In 2018, she opened her own company, Neurodevelopmental Assessment & Consulting Services, where she specializes in diagnostic evaluations, teaching, and training for autism spectrum and related disorders.

Dr. Saulnier has published numerous articles, is an author on the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, Third Edition, and has written two books, *Essentials of Autism Spectrum Disorders, Evaluation, and Assessment* and *Essentials of Adaptive Behavior Assessment of Neurodevelopmental Disorders*.

## Translating Assessment Results into Intervention Objectives

(1 hr 30 min 53 sec)

- Writing Comprehensive and Integrated Reports
- Developing a Hierarchy of Needs
- Differentiating Educational Eligibility from Standards of Best Practice
- Determining Appropriate Educational Placement

## Overview of Evidence-Based Practices

(1 hr 31min 25 sec)

- Applied Behavior Analysis
- Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Interventions
- Parent Coaching/Parent Training Models
- Universal Design for Learning and SEE-KS
- Educational, Organizational, and Visual Supports

## Strategies & Interventions to Foster Social-Emotional Functioning

(1 hr 19 min 41 sec)

- Social Stories
- Video Modeling
- Social Skills Groups
- Peer Training
- Social-Emotional and Behavioral Interventions

## Adolescence and Adulthood (1 hr 51 min 31 sec)

- Puberty, Self-Care, and Adaptive Behavior Strategies
- Pharmacological Treatments
- Transition Planning
- College and Vocational Supports
- Self-Advocacy and Family Supports

## Objectives—Participants will be able to describe:

- Features of Autism Spectrum Disorder across varying profiles of cognition and language
- Common co-occurring conditions with ASD, including other neurodevelopmental disorders and affective disorders
- Concepts of masking and camouflaging in individuals with intact cognition, particularly females
- Evidence-based methods of intervention
- Strategies and accommodations to foster social, emotional, and behavioral skills
- Supports for transitional and vocational services

**Approved Home Study 11.5 CE Hours for Psychologists Counselors Social Workers Nurses MFT AOTA**

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Practice Level—Intermediate

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