

CREATING CONNECTIONS Workshop

Executive Summary

Workshop Title:
Creating Connections

Workshop Facilitators:
Marcia Goldman, PACE Director of Education
Kurt Ohlfs, PACE Executive Director

Training Summary:
In this two and one half hour session participants will be introduced to Autism, a neuro-developmental disorder that impacts a person's communication, social skills, behavior and the ability to learn in conventional ways. Participants will learn the definition and history of Autism; effective practices for helping children with Autism "rejoin" the world; therapeutic practices that focus on self-regulation, communication and relating; and how to promote the sensory development of children with Autism. Current statistics, trends and resources will be topics of discussion. Common challenges facing families who have received an Autism diagnosis and the best mechanisms for coping with these challenges will be discussed. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to hear first-hand accounts from parents of children who have received an Autism diagnosis.

Target Audience:
This workshop is designed for counselors, social workers, teachers, educators and individuals working with families with a child suspected of Autism or a related neuro-developmental disorder.

Outcome Objectives for Participants:
As a result of attending this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Recognize the early warning signs of Autism
- Recognize the growing incidence of Autism and related disabilities in Santa Clara County
- Identify children at risk for Autism
- Understand Autism from the perspective of the child
- Understand the importance of creating an environment that supports a child with Autism
- Create strategies to better support the child's ability to regulate, communicate and relate
- Understand why the ability to communicate and interact spontaneously is the most critical educational priority for a child with Autism
- Understand the challenges facing a family of a child diagnosed with Autism and how best to support the family

Materials:
Handouts to be provided.