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Systematic Language Instruction for Early Learners with Autism

PDH Academy Course #1903 2 CE HOURS

Course Abstract

This Introductory level course presents evidence-based strategies that allow students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), as well as other students who are limited verbally, to become more effective communicators. It opens with a review of the communication characteristics associated with autism, then introduces a six-step model for a systematic approach to intervention, incorporating specific examples and case studies spanning a variety of age groups from preschool through high school. Throughout, “Therapy Snippets” provide examples of this model in action.

NOTE: Links provided within the course material are for informational purposes only. No endorsement of processes or products is intended or implied.



PDH Academy is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. **See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area.** ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

This course is offered for .2 ASHA CEUs (Introductory level, Professional area)

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, learners will be able to:

- Recognize characteristics associated with autism
- Differentiate between terms used in the field of applied behavior analysis
- Recall aspects of the six-step model
- Identify elements of the six-step model as applied to specific learners

Timed Topic Outline

I. Introduction (15 minutes)

Vocabulary Refresher

II. Collaboration (5 minutes)

III. Assessment (10 minutes)

Standardized Measures, Non-standardized Measures, Naturalistic Observation

- IV. Goal Setting (5 minutes)
- V. Embedded Communication Intervention (5 minutes)
- VI. Robust Data Collection (10 minutes)
 Data Binder Review
- VII. Specific Progress Reporting (5 minutes)
- VIII. Examples: Maverick and Hank (30 minutes)
- IX. Case Studies (20 minutes)
- X. Conclusion, References, and Exam (15 minutes)

Delivery Method

Correspondence/internet self-study with interactivity, including a provider-graded final exam. *To earn continuing education credit for this course, you must achieve a passing score of 80% on the final exam.*

Accessibility and/or Special Needs Concerns?

Contact customer service by phone at (888)564-9098 or email at support@pdhacademy.com.

Course Author Bio & Disclosure

Rosemarie Griffin, MA, CCC-SLP, BCBA, COBA, is a licensed speech-language pathologist, board certified behavior analyst, and product developer. She completed her Master's degree at Kent State University, her education specialist degree in school administration at Cleveland State University, and coursework leading to licensure as a board certified behavior analyst at the University of North Texas. Since 2003, Mrs. Griffin has worked as a speech-language pathologist and has held positions at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner School and at the STARS program (Specialized Teaching for students with Autism and Resources Services) with the Geauga County Educational Service Center. A move to Texas allowed Mrs. Griffin to become an autism facilitator and support specialist for Leander Independent School District in Austin, Texas. Currently she splits her time between KidsLink and a local public school system.

Mrs. Griffin is a member of the adjunct faculty at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. She is fully licensed by both the Ohio Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology and the Ohio Department of Education, and she is a certified member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). She is also fully licensed by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board and by the Ohio Board of Psychology. Mrs. Griffin is passionate about lecturing on effective communication services for students with autism and has done so for many organizations, including the Ohio Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Milestones, and SpeechPathology.com. She is also the creator of the Action Builder Cards for systematic language instruction.

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