

# HANDS in Autism: Summer Training Program for School Personnel - 2010

HANDS in Autism  
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[www.handsinautism.org](http://www.handsinautism.org)

The development of this project was facilitated by Grant Number E11/CCU524062-01 from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and other charitable organizations. The ongoing efforts of the project are primarily and currently supported through a grant from the Center for Exceptional Learners, Indiana Department of Education under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (P.L. 108-446). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of our sponsors.



## Session Dates

Week 1: June 14 - June 18, 2010: Monday - Friday, 8am-5pm

Week 2: June 28 - July 2, 2010: Monday - Friday, 8am-5pm

Week 3: July 12 - July 16, 2010: Monday - Friday, 8am-5pm

## Deadlines

**April 19:** Last day to submit applications

**May 5:** Applicants notified via email regarding acceptance

**May 12:** Pre-training packets available for completion

**May 17:** Tentative session assignments available

**May 31:** Deadline for all participants to complete the pre-training packet

**June 11:** Deadline for Week 1 participants to complete pre-training modules

**June 25:** Deadline for Week 2 participants to complete pre-training modules

**July 9:** Deadline for Week 3 participants to complete pre-training modules

**June 14 - July 16:** Training Weeks 1-3

**September 7:** Post-training packets available for completion

**October 1:** Deadline for competing post-training packets

**October 25:** CRU Certificates and Official Report mailed\*\*

*\*\*In order to receive full CRU credits, participants **must** complete in its entirety the pre- and post-training packets and attend the training in full. No partial CRU credits will be awarded.*

## Cost of Training:

The cost to provide this training experience is approximately \$1300 per participant. However, the generous grant funding from the Indiana Department of Education, Center for Exceptional Learners allows complete sponsorship to Indiana school personnel in public or private schools and serving students along the autism spectrum **at no charge**.

## Audience

The HANDS in Autism training is made available to school personnel who work with children with autism and related disorders. This training program has been accredited to issue continuing education credits for educators and therapists. Since the HANDS in Autism training includes working hands-on with children on the autism spectrum, the training content of each week will vary slightly depending on the age range and abilities of the students in the training classroom that week. If you are unsure whether this training is appropriate for your needs, please contact us for more information.

The HANDS team is committed to using empirically-supported training practices and is continually evaluating the training process and procedures. In an effort to ensure that our training is effective, participants will be asked to complete several measures (i.e., online surveys, student scenarios) and submit several classroom products as described below, both before and after the training session on the IUPUI campus. In order to make participation and completion of training as efficient as possible, the pre- and post-training packets must be completed online. Additionally, there are three pre-training modules that are accessible online only. **You must provide a valid email address and have high-speed access to the internet to participate in this training program.** Note: Access is often available at your local public library.

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## Why the HANDS in Autism Summer Training Program?

Our week-long program focuses on providing hands-on experience and coaching in a training classroom environment. While the program includes traditional instructional methods such as lectures and discussion, the emphasis of training is the hands-on application of a variety of techniques and the process of determining techniques appropriate for each student, classroom, and intervention team.

## Learning Goals for Participants

- ◇ Increase the number of strategies based on Applied Behavior Analysis principles (e.g., Positive Behavior Supports, Pivotal Response Training, etc.) that school personnel have in their professional "toolbox"
- ◇ Broaden perspective of school personnel in approaches used to communicate, interact, instruct, and program for individuals with autism and related disorders
- ◇ Increase understanding of ways to approach team-based and systems-based collaboration
- ◇ Emphasize a proactive approach to behavioral and educational intervention for children with autism and related disorders
- ◇ Increase understanding of the importance of building curriculum and behavioral programming around evidence-based practices
- ◇ Improve understanding of the importance of and the development process for implementing data-driven decision-making
- ◇ Increase understanding of the educational and behavioral assessment process
- ◇ Increase ability to differentiate between empirically supported practices and alternative practices

## What to Expect

Generally, each training week includes three students of varying ages and abilities, approximately 12-15 school personnel, HANDS staff, and volunteers/higher-ed students. Each student with ASD is paired with a group of 3-5 participants, who observes, interacts, works hands-on, and receives coaching throughout the training phases. Each student participant is familiar to HANDS staff and all activities are individualized specifically for each student's strengths and interests. For school personnel, an emphasis of training throughout the week will be gaining skills in:

- ◇ assessment of students
- ◇ writing student goals and objectives that are measurable and attainable
- ◇ individually teaching skills in a structured and comprehensive format

If accepted as a training participant, you will gain knowledge and understanding of the topics listed below, exposure to a range of children on the autism spectrum with ability to observe and shadow HANDS trainers working with the children, and opportunity to practice and receive feedback on techniques and approaches introduced in training.

## Topics

- ◇ Best Practices
- ◇ Visual & Physical Structure
- ◇ Schedules & Choreography
- ◇ Prompting
- ◇ Behavioral & Educational Assessment
- ◇ Goal Development & Writing
- ◇ Behavior Intervention
- ◇ Psychopharmacological Intervention
- ◇ Data Representation
- ◇ Ongoing Data-driven Decision Making
- ◇ Skills Teaching
- ◇ Tasks & Adaptations
- ◇ Social Communication Skills
- ◇ Grouping