Welcome

Instructor: Diana Shultz, MS, LCSW

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Center for Development of Human Services
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Foster/Adoptive Parent Training Project

Agenda

• Introduction
• Defining Autism
• Causes of Autism
• Diagnosis
• Consulting & Working with Professionals
• Intervention Strategies
• Moving Forward after Diagnosis

Introductions

• Name and location in NY
• Share 1 fact that you know about Autism
Thoughts and Feelings?

What is Autism?

Prevalence
Characteristics of Autism

- Absence/delay of speech or other communication challenges
- Difficulty relating to others
- Out-of-ordinary behaviors
- Sensory challenges

What Causes Autism?
Diagnosis

Consulting with Professionals

Multidisciplinary Assessment Team

- Developmental Pediatrician
- Child Psychiatrist
- Clinical Psychologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Speech/language Therapist
- Social Worker
Working with Professionals

Remember the 3 B’s!

Be Informed

Be Prepared

Be Organized

and

Communicate

Choosing Interventions
Intervention Criteria

- Educational/Therapy -

- Autism-specific content
- Regular intervention activities
- Family involvement
- Involved with other children
- Predictability & established routines
- Communication skill development

Understanding and Evaluating Interventions

Intervention Strategies
Strategies

- Involve child in taking turns
- Encourage child to join peer playing with a favored toy
- Use pictures and charts
- Use short, simple directions
- Reduce excess stimulation & distraction
- Look at communicative intent

Moving Forward after Diagnosis

1. Learn as much as possible
2. Network
3. Test, test, test!
4. Investigate sources of financial aid
5. Consider major lifestyle changes
6. Set up educational/behavioral program
7. Begin therapies
8. Address diet and nutrition
9. Don’t give up – Attitude is everything!
Web-Based Training for Foster/Adoptive Parents

Parenting a Child with Autism

The End.
Thank You!