HANDS in Autism®
Interdisciplinary Training & Resource Center

Providing quality training & resources since 2004

Mission
To provide unique learning opportunities designed to improve understanding of the process and ability to work with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and a range of other developmental and behavioral challenges through hands-on and coaching experiences and building bridges of information, resources and collaboration across family, educational, medical and community systems.

Vision
To build local capacity statewide through continuous learning and demonstrations of effective implementation of (1) evidence-based practices in supporting individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other neurodevelopmental and behavioral disorders across home, school, medical and other community settings and (2) regional community networks composed of the same stakeholders bridging across systems and settings with a focus on shared responsibility for positive individual and family outcomes.

Support
Through the efforts of HANDS staff and foundational support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and sponsors such as the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), IU Health, and various charitable and philanthropic organizations and individuals, HANDS has emerged as a state-wide training and resource center making a significant impact in the lives of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities as well as their families and caregivers.

Training
The Center provides innovative, research-based, and practical training and technical support to school staff, medical and service providers, primary caregivers, and individuals on the autism spectrum within Indiana and globally based on the HANDS training model. This model is founded on the belief that training should focus on: individual strengths; comprehensive training; data driven decision making; blended evidence-based intervention strategies; and hands-on practice, coaching and mentoring with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder as well as a range of other individuals with diverse strengths and challenges in their natural settings. HANDS offers complementary resources and negotiates a range of service contracts to suit consumer needs.

Service
The Center provides customizable live and online trainings, interactive workshops, onsite coaching and consultations, and intensive hands-on trainings for school personnel, health care providers, families, therapists and other caregivers. Much training occurs in or is presented from work within natural settings, lending emphasis to practical use with increased feasibility, support of effective implementation or transfer of learning, and improved building of local capacity. Additionally, self-paced tutorials, webcasts, and podcasts, as well as a number of downloadable materials (from informational handouts to templates to manuals) are available online, many free of charge.

Community
The HANDS in Autism® Center also focuses on identifying and meeting specific community needs as well as fostering: collaboration and networking across medical, school, family, and community settings; reciprocal sharing of information within and across communities; increased dissemination and awareness of resources and information; and increased training opportunities within, relevant to, and informed by the specific community. Since 2010 and in an effort to expand and enrich awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Indiana as well as to expand on community collaborations, HANDS in Autism® initiated and continues to facilitate Local Community Cadres (LCCs). These cadres bring together interested individuals representing school, medical and family/community systems and perspectives to take action in meeting local community needs of individuals with autism spectrum or related disorders, families, and the entire community.

Support
“I have been involved with the HANDS in Autism Team for over ten years in both my current job as the Administrator for Special Education in a district serving 1,430 students with disabilities as well as my former position... In all of my encounters with Dr. Swiezy and her team I have been genuinely impressed with the level of expertise and the compassion for students, families and staff.”
Administrator for Special Education, Indiana community school corporation

“I witnessed some of the information being used in patient care the following day. The materials and tools that you left are also very helpful.”
Physician, Bloomington

“It is really wonderful to see [a classroom model] that is helping these children who would be lost.”
Parent, Indianapolis

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& Learning Connection
Quick Guide to HANDS in Autism®
Resources for Professionals & Families

Live & Online Training/Consultation Opportunities that Meet Your Needs

Learning experiences we offer are:
- Evidence-based
- Data-driven
- Focused on individual strengths
- Interactive
- Practical
- Customizable

- Immediately applicable
- Built on existing professional knowledge of learners
- Supported in an ongoing manner after training
- Expanded with supplemental materials & toolkits
- Focused on building local capacity
- Applicable across systems of support

Online/Digital Media Opportunities for Professional Development

A range of self-paced online modules, podcasts, How-To and topic-specific videos on ASD, practical strategies, and other suggestions for school personnel, families, and community members.

Available online and as a DVD (for select options).

Practical Publications & Resource Toolkits

Designed to assist in gaining knowledge and practical application of strategies for a wide range of settings and homes.

Available for download/DVD and as a hard copy.

Tools and Templates for Visual Strategies & Supports

Designed to be used by professionals & staff to assist with success in the school setting and to be shared with families for use in the home and community.

Available for download/DVD, hard copy, single strategy packet, and as individual tools.

Resources to Support Collaboration & Cultural Diversity

Designed to foster increased collaboration within the school setting and across settings with additional materials available to share with Spanish-speaking school personnel, providers, peers, and families.

Available for download and as a hard copy.

ASD Fact Sheets, Templates for Academic & Non-Academic Activities, & Other Resources

Designed to improve understanding of ASD as well as provide further reading with practical strategies embedded for professionals, staff, peers, and to share with families.

Available for download and as a hard copy.

Getting Involved in Your Community

Consider joining a Local Community Cadre in your area! Local Community Cadres are groups of professionals and family members, whose goal is to improve the outcomes of individuals with ASD in their area.

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