

# *Autism Certification for* **PARAEDUCATORS**

## **COURSE LIST**

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Learning objectives for each course are listed at the end of this document.

Autism Spectrum Disorder: Challenging Behaviors  
Autism Spectrum Disorder: Communication  
Autism Spectrum Disorder: Essential Facts  
Autism Spectrum Disorder: Prompting Strategies  
Autism Spectrum Disorder: Social Interactions and Skill Development  
Bullying Awareness, Prevention, and Intervention  
Helping vs. Hovering: How to Avoid the “Helicopter” Effect  
Implementing and Monitoring Behavior Intervention Plans  
Introduction to Accommodations and Modifications  
Managing a Student in Crisis  
Monitoring Student Progress  
Paraeducator Roles and Responsibilities in the Classroom  
Professionalism  
Providing Positive Behavioral Supports for Individual Students  
Strategies to Defuse a Defiant Student  
Student Behavior: Inappropriate Language and Inappropriate Touching  
Student Behavior: Noncompliance and Being Out of Seat  
Student Behavior: Property Destruction and Self Injury  
Supporting Students with Accommodations and Modifications  
Taking Instructional or Behavioral Data  
Understanding Common Concerns of Families of Individuals with Disabilities

## **COURSES AND COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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### **Autism Spectrum Disorder: Challenging Behaviors**

The participant will...

- Review the characteristics of ASD.

- Become familiar with the behavioral characteristics associated with ASD.
- Understand the needs and functions of behavior.
- Discover how positive behavioral supports can help prevent challenging behaviors.
- Learn techniques for replacing challenging behaviors with positive behaviors.

### **Autism Spectrum Disorder: Communication**

The participant will...

- Review the characteristics of ASD.
- Understand the definition and function of communication.
- Examine the communication characteristics associated with ASD.
- Gain information on how learning issues impact communication.
- Learn about the different modes of communication that children with ASD may use.

### **Autism Spectrum Disorder: Essential Facts**

The participant will...

- Learn the characteristics of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- Understand how professionals diagnose autism spectrum disorder.
- Become familiar with signs, symptoms, and issues associated with autism spectrum disorder.
- Learn the causes, prevalence, and prognosis for individuals with ASD.

### **Autism Spectrum Disorder: Prompting Strategies**

The participant will...

- Be introduced to the concept of prompting for students with autism spectrum disorder.
- Examine the rationale for using prompting strategies in instruction and learning.
- Discover the varying levels of prompting and understand how the prompt hierarchy can be used to promote student independence.
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages associated with prompting.
- Learn tips and strategies for applying prompting procedures appropriately.

### **Autism Spectrum Disorder: Social Interactions and Skill Development**

The participant will...

- Review the characteristics of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- Understand the definition and characteristics of social interaction.
- Gain information on how learning issues impact social interactions.
- Learn about different instructional approaches for social skills training.
- Gain tips to make social skills instruction more effective.

### **Bullying Awareness, Prevention, and Intervention**

The participant will...

- Gain a practical understanding of the issue of bullying.
- Identify the different players in a bullying situation.
- Develop strategies for preventing bullying from occurring in the school setting.
- Learn how to intervene and address bullying when it does occur.

### **Helping vs. Hovering: How to Avoid the “Helicopter” Effect**

The participant will...

- Learn basic information about adult support in the school environment.
- Define the basics of self-sufficiency.
- Identify ways to promote student self-sufficiency in the school environment.

### **Implementing and Monitoring Behavior Intervention Plans**

The participant will...

- Understand the purpose of a behavior intervention plan (BIP).
- Identify the components of a BIP.
- Learn the effective techniques for implementing a BIP.
- Discover the purpose and methods for monitoring a BIP.

### **Introduction to Accommodations and Modifications**

The participant will...

- Learn the difference between accommodations and modifications.
- Understand the range of accommodations and modifications for students with exceptionalities.
- Understand when and how to provide appropriate modifications for students.
- Learn strategies for designing and implementing modifications.

### **Managing a Student in Crisis**

The participant will...

- Understand the definition of a student in crisis.
- Identify the four stages of the Crisis Development Model.
- Begin developing personal strategies for dealing with a student in crisis.
- Learn basic guidelines concerning physical intervention.
- Become familiar with how to respond after the crisis is over.

### **Monitoring Student Progress**

The participant will...

- Recognize the importance of monitoring the progress of students with special needs.
- Understand the various components of an individualized education plan (IEP).

- Understand the role of the paraeducator in monitoring student progress.
- Learn strategies and methods for monitoring student progress.

### **Paraeducator Roles and Responsibilities in the Classroom**

The participant will...

- Recognize that part of the paraeducator's job is to learn how to work well with both students and adults.
- Understand how to support students with special needs in the inclusive classroom.
- Identify ways to support the classroom teacher in the inclusive classroom.
- Learn effective communication skills for working as an inclusive team member.
- Review the variety of duties that may be required for a paraeducator.
- Organize information effectively to carry out assigned duties.
- Identify the "don'ts" of working with a classroom teacher.

### **Professionalism**

The participant will...

- Understand that a component of professionalism is understanding the aim of the profession to include mandates, policies, procedures, etc.
- Be able to define his or her role within the academic system and understand how it's different than the teacher's role.
- Review the characteristics and skills required of paraeducators in an educational environment.
- Recognize the value of forming relationships with student academic teams and review the qualities that enhance relationship building.
- Realize that a component of professionalism is continuous growth.

### **Providing Positive Behavioral Supports for Individual Students**

The participant will...

- Understand the underlying philosophy of using positive behavioral supports.
- Identify positive and proactive supports that can be used within the classroom or school environment.
- Learn effective techniques to apply positive behavioral support to teaching methods.
- Examine effective ways to apply positive behavioral supports to interpersonal actions.

### **Strategies to Defuse a Defiant Student**

The participant will...

- Become familiar with the challenges of working with defiant students.
- Identify the five stages of defiant behavior and the appropriate intervention at each stage.

- Review how to communicate appropriately through body language and voice tone.
- Learn how to counteract unreasonable expectations.
- Understand how to set limits effectively.

### **Student Behavior: Inappropriate Language and Inappropriate Touching**

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of objective behavior definitions in observing and managing behaviors in the classroom.
- Examine the three functions of behavior and how they are exhibited.
- Learn positive behavioral supports that address the occurrence of inappropriate language and inappropriate touching.
- Examine strategies that address the seeking of positive reinforcement, negative reinforcement, and sensory regulation.
- Identify intervention strategies to use for targeted behaviors.

### **Student Behavior: Noncompliance and Being Out of Seat**

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of objective behavior definitions in observing and managing behaviors in the classroom.
- Examine the three functions of behavior and how they are exhibited.
- Learn basic positive behavioral supports that address the occurrence of noncompliance and out-of-seat behaviors in the classroom.
- Examine strategies that address the seeking of positive reinforcement, negative reinforcement, and sensory regulation.
- Identify intervention strategies to use for targeted behaviors.

### **Student Behavior: Property Destruction and Self Injury**

The participant will...

- Understand the importance of objective behavior definitions in observing and managing behaviors in the classroom.
- Examine the three functions of behavior and how they are exhibited.
- Learn basic positive behavioral supports that address the occurrence of property destruction and self injury in the classroom.
- Examine strategies that address the seeking of positive reinforcement, negative reinforcement, and sensory regulation.
- Identify intervention strategies to use for targeted behaviors.

### **Supporting Students with Accommodations and Modifications**

The participant will...

- Learn a variety of methods for making appropriate accommodations and modifications.
- Understand which students a paraeducator can support with accommodations and modifications.
- Understand when accommodations or modifications are needed to support a student.

### **Taking Instructional or Behavioral Data**

The participant will...

- Understand the purpose of data collection.
- Discover various methods for collecting instructional data.
- Examine various methods for collecting behavioral data.
- Learn how to be an effective data collector.

### **Understanding Common Concerns of Families of Individuals with Disabilities**

The participant will...

- Develop an understanding of the common concerns faced by families of individuals with disabilities.
- Become aware that parents want educators to have high expectations for their children with disabilities.
- Learn what actions school staff can take to address safety concerns of parents.
- Understand an educator's role in helping positively shape the attitudes of others toward individuals with disabilities.
- Identify ways to ease transitions for students with disabilities and their families.