

Understanding Autism

An Educational Series
For Caregivers and
Clinical Professionals

August 2010 - February 2011

Featured Instructors

Gail Wilkins Ed.S. Consultant
Dr. Donna Andrews Piedmont College
Dr. Jeff Waller Troy State University

Presented by Wesley Glen Ministries

What is it?

The Understanding Autism Institute is a six-session series of classes designed to educate you on the characteristics and behaviors of Autism Spectrum Disorder and the effects they have on children and adults with autism spectrum disorders in school, at home and in the community at large. You will also learn how to identify and analyze these behaviors and, in turn, write and monitor a Behavior Intervention program.

Who should attend?

The Understanding Autism Institute is for agency staff members, education specialists working with autistic children and adults, and those interested in learning more about autism. Sessions will be differentiated as Level I and Level II based on individuals with and without previous training in Autism Spectrum Disorders.

What will be involved?

This is a six-part series of classes, spread over seven months. Your attendance at all six sessions is crucial. Each session is \$70.00. As this is an Institute, there will be assignments and homework! Come prepared to work and learn and enrich your relationships with those individuals with autism for whom you care and love. All sessions are from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

August 18, 2010: Level I and Level II Characteristics of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Instructional Strategies

September 15, 2010: Level I Communication and Instructional Strategies for Individuals with ASD

September 16, 2010: Level II Communication and Instructional Strategies for Individuals with ASD

October 13, 2010: Level I and Level II Behavioral Issues for Individuals with ASD

November 10, 2010: Level I and Level II Social Skills for Individuals with ASD

January 12, 2011: Level I Sensory Issues for Individuals with ASD

January 13, 2011: Level II Sensory Issues for Individuals with ASD

February 23: Level I and Level II Putting it All Together: Understanding Individuals with ASD

Due to the intense nature of this course and the requirements for earning your Continuing Education Units (CEUs), you need to attend all six sessions. If you are unable to attend, please contact Melanie Parsons or Anna Stefaniw at Wesley Glen Ministries 478-471-3711.

Participants with any special needs should make these known to the instructors during the first class session.

Course Description

This training is designed to provide characteristics, instructional and curricular methodology, and communication and behavioral skills for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Because of the variability in behaviors, cognitive levels, and communication skills of individuals with ASD, specific training methods are needed for successful daily living.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, participants will:

1. Identify the behavioral, social and communication characteristics associated with individuals with ASD.
2. Identify and apply best practices and data collection systems for individuals with ASD.
3. Identify and discuss the inter-relatedness of social skills, communication, and behavior, and the impact these can have on school performance for individuals with ASD.
4. Identify and discuss sensory issues for individuals with ASD and how they may interfere with behaviors and learning in the home and community setting. Participants will also be introduced to Assistive Technology that may assist individuals with ASD in communication.
5. Identify and analyze the functions of interfering behaviors of individuals with ASD, for the purpose of completing a Functional Behavior Analysis (FBA) and successfully writing and monitoring a Behavior Intervention Program (BIP).
6. Synthesize and refine FBAs and BIPs for individuals with ASD

Course Requirements

1. All participants are responsible for the material presented in the texts, handouts and additional reading.
2. Participants are responsible for completing the following assignments:
 - a. Daily activities schedule
 - b. Conversation book
 - c. Social story/power card strategy
 - d. Data collection sheets
 - e. Resource notebook

At October's meeting, you will return with a completed Daily Activity Schedule for one individual. This schedule is based on pictures or words depicting the activities the individual is involved in during the day. For example:

1. Bathroom activities (in the bathroom a series of pictures can be used to depict the sequence of skills practiced – such as toileting, hand washing, tooth brushing, etc...)
2. Leisure time spent alone
3. Work routine
4. Meal preparation routine
5. Social skills activities – involving interaction with others

Registration

Submit the following form to the address below:

Attendee Information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Relationship

- Professional Staff
- Family Member
- Wesley Glen Ministries Staff
- Other (Please Describe)

Cost

\$70.00 per session

\$420 for all 6 sessions

Scholarships may be available to help with this cost

Send form with check made payable to:

Wesley Glen Ministries
4580 North Mumford Road
Macon, GA 31210

For more information call 478-471-3711

Understanding Autism

Gain valuable insight and educational instruction in this informative series. The six-part seminar series will be taught by Gail Wilkins and Dr. Donna Andrews of Piedmont College and Dr. Jeff Waller of Troy State University. By attending, you will learn how to more effectively communicate with and administer care for individuals with autism. Share personal challenges and inspirational experiences with others who are actively engaged in the lives of autistic friends, family members and patients. Learn best practices and valuable techniques for enhancing and enriching the quality of life for persons with autism and their families.

Understanding Autism is an important outreach program presented by Wesley Glen Ministries. The private, not-for-profit agency is an active ministry of the South Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church. The specialized seminars will be hosted in a peaceful setting on Wesley Glen's growing Macon campus in the new Life Skills Center. Our campus includes homes, apartments, offices, retail businesses, a chapel and a new Life Skills Center where adults with autism and other developmental disabilities are served in partnership with the community.