



EASTERSEALS MIDWEST AUTISM CONFERENCE SERIES

SPONSORED BY **SpecialCare**
a special needs program developed by MassMutual

KANSAS CITY

CAPE GIRARDEAU

SPRINGFIELD

COLUMBIA

ST. LOUIS

ST. LOUIS

**NOVEMBER 16
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM**

**ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE | BRIDGETON
3221 McKelvey Road
Bridgeton, MO 63044**

JOIN US.
eastersealsautismseries.com

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Parents of a child with autism living in St. Louis County are able to attend for free (up to 2 people)
- All other parents – \$75
- Professionals – \$100
- Groups of 4 or more professionals – \$90 per person

REGISTRATION | 8:00 AM – 8:55 AM

WELCOME ADDRESS | 8:55 AM – 9:00 AM

Presented by Melanie Mills

KEYNOTE SPEAKER | 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

“Executive Functions and Autism: A Practical Attempt”

Presented by Dr. Michael Mohrland

BREAK | 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS ONE | 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Session A: “Let’s Eat! Understanding and Supporting Picky Eaters”

Presented by Lea Ann Lowery, OTD, OTR/L

Session B: “Discipline Under IDEA”

Presented by Karen Cooper

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN | 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS TWO | 1:15 PM – 2:45 PM

Session A: “Strategies for Teaching Social Skills”

Presented by Jennifer Haughey, B.A. & Randy Sanders MA/BCBA

Session B: “Social Skills Barriers to Employment”

Presented by Ann Schad, LCSW & Jen Hyde, BS

BREAK | 2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS THREE | 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Session A: “Paraprofessionals: Strategies that Work”

Presented by Jennifer Haughey, B.A.

Session B: “Missouri ABLE”

Presented by Todd Gentry

SPEAKER AND SESSION DESCRIPTIONS:

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION | 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Executive Functions and Autism: A Practical Attempt

Presented by Dr. Dr. Michael Mohrland

ABOUT THE PRESENTER: Dr. Mohrland is a board certified clinical neuropsychologist providing neuropsychological services at the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. His clinics include the Pediatric Neuropsychology Clinic, Autism Neuropsychology Clinic, Pediatric Concussion Clinic, and inter-disciplinary clinics alongside speech-language and occupational therapists. Dr. Mohrland provides supervision and clinical training for students in graduate, pre-doctoral internship, and post-doctoral fellowship training programs at the University of Missouri. Dr. Mohrland serves on the Missouri Health Sciences Psychology Internship Consortium Committee and is Co-Director of the Clinical Neuropsychology Residency at the University of Missouri. He is a former school board member in Wisconsin and a current facility dog handler at the Thompson Center. Dr. Mohrland completed a formal fellowship in both neuropsychology and rehabilitation psychology at the University of Michigan, and internship at the University of Missouri.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTATION: Executive functions play a significant role in functional outcomes. In ASDs, this relationship is dynamic. Understanding the assessment and treatment of executive skills in children-adolescents with ASD holds promise for predictive and practical outcomes.

BREAKOUT SESSION ONE | 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

SESSION A

Let's Eat! Understanding and Supporting Picky Eaters

Presented by Lea Ann Lowery, OTD, OTR/L

ABOUT THE PRESENTER: Lea Ann Lowrey is an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at MU. She also is a clinical provider, including working with children with limited food preferences at the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SESSION: This presentation will discuss common causes of picky eating in children with disabilities and basic assessment to guide development of intervention plans. Basic intervention strategies and ideas for both providers and families will be addressed.

SESSION B

Discipline Under IDEA

Presented by Karen Cooper

ABOUT THE PRESENTER: Karen Cooper works for Family Advocacy and Community Training (FACT), a non-profit, family run organization in St. Charles County, MO. FACT provides Educational Advocacy Services and Parent Support Partners to families who have children with developmental disabilities and/or mental health diagnoses. Educational Advocates have extensive training in the laws that govern the education for children with disabilities. Parent Support Partners have extensive training in how to use their lived experience to empower parents to effectively navigate the systems they are involved in to improve outcomes for their child with a disability. Everyone who works at FACT has a family member with a disability. Karen's son Sam, now 24 years old, is on the Autism Spectrum. Karen used FACT services for her son when he was in Elementary School to help him get the services he needed. When Sam was in the 5th grade, an Educational Advocate position came open and Karen applied. Karen has been at FACT for 13 years, starting as an Educational Advocate, then becoming a Transition Specialist – focusing on supporting youths and families develop a meaningful Transition Plan through the IEP process, then becoming the Training Specialist for FACT, training all employees and developing workshops to educate families and professionals. She is now also the Advocacy Supervisor, supervising the Educational Advocates. Her son Sam by the way, is doing great. He graduated from Ranken Technical College in the Information Technologies program, works full time at a job he loves, drives, and lives on his own without any formal supports. Karen reports this would never have been possible without the services she received from FACT when he was younger and the training and knowledge she gained on how to effectively advocate for Sam. Karen is dedicated to sharing that same information to parents so they can choose the right path for their children and their families.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SESSION: This presentation provides information on your child's rights and your rights when your child is disciplined and on an IEP. Parents will be given tools to use to help ensure their child continues to receive an education that meets their needs regardless of the discipline consequences.

BREAKOUT SESSION TWO | 1:15 PM – 2:45 PM

SESSION A

Strategies for Teaching Social Skills

Presented by Jennifer Haughey, B.A. & Randy Sanders MA/BCBA

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS: Jennifer Haughey, B.A., has a degree in special education and has been a classroom teacher for children with autism as well as a special education consultant/resource teacher. For the past 28 years, she has worked in various capacities at Easterseals Midwest, specializing in autism services. Currently, Jennifer serves in the role as a Family Navigator for the agency, developing plans for parents of newly diagnosed children as well as older individuals who are in need of various services and supports. She conducts ADOS (Autism Diagnostic and Observation Schedule) assessments of children, facilitates the PEERS and CFT social skills training groups and leads parent support groups. Jennifer is also the Community Education Specialist, providing autism training and education to teachers, medical students, residents, police officers, first responders, museum and library staff, as well as to parents.

Randy Sanders, MA/BCBA earned his Bachelor of Science in Communication Disorders from Missouri State University and Master of Arts in Psychology /Applied Behavior Analysis from University of Nevada Reno. He is a certified speech and language therapist K-12 and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. He has over 25 years of experience working with both children and adults with autism and their families. He served on the Blue Ribbon Panel for Autism for the State of Missouri and worked extensively on the education and adult serves sections of the report. Randy's experience includes providing direct services and leadership while employed at the Judevine Center for Autism from 1987 to 2003 and is currently the Program Coordinator for Autism Services with the Francis Howell School District in St. Charles, Missouri. He has served as an adjunct professor at Lindenwood University in the Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis programs for five years and presented in the areas of special education, autism and behavior analysis at both regional and national conferences.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SESSION: Learning proper conversational skills, choosing appropriate friends, handling rejection, teasing, and bullying are just a few social skills with which children and teens with autism may struggle. This workshop will address key social skills, how to determine social goals, and provide successful strategies for teaching social skills for both families and schools. Participants will also learn about how PEERS (Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills) and CFT (Children's Friendship Training) programs create life changing opportunities for children and teens with autism by engaging children in learning real life skills for connecting, building, and maintaining friendships.

SESSION B

Social Skills Barriers to Employment

Presented by Ann Schad, LCSW & Jen Hyde, BS

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS: Ann Schad, LCSW, has been in the field of social work for the past 35 years in the areas of child abuse/neglect, foster care, adoption and eating disorders. For the last 27 years she has worked in various capacities for Easterseals Midwest. Ann has served in the role of Family Navigator developing plans for parents of newly diagnosed children, as well as older individuals who are in need of various transition services and supports. She has completed ADOS (Autism Diagnostic and Observation Schedule) assessments of children and adults, as well as facilitated parent and sibling support groups. Ann has provided autism training and education to medical students, residents, police officers and parents. Currently, she serves in the role of Autism Consultant at Easterseals Midwest in the Employment Services Department and facilitates the LINK Program, which is an employment program for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder/Asperger's Syndrome who are unemployed or underemployed. There she provides pragmatic language assessments and therapeutic sessions teaching and practicing social skills necessary for the workplace. Ann is also an instructor in the LINK program and has helped to develop a structured 8 week interactive social skills class program teaching social skills specific to the employment setting. She also provides ongoing Autism Training and support to the Employment Services Staff at Easterseals Midwest.

Jen Hyde, BS has been supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, including autism, to work in the community for over 10 years. Jen earned her bachelor of professional studies from Missouri Baptist University, with a concentration in education. She joined Easterseals Midwest in 2006, starting as a temporary summer employee, shifting to a variety of roles including job coach, job developer, and, currently, supported employment manager. Jen has used her experiences in these areas to assist in the development and implementation of our LINK Program for individuals with autism who are pursuing competitive employment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SESSION: Currently 90% of individuals with autism are unemployed or underemployed. Over the next 10 years, half a million teens with autism will age into adulthood. Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder have unique strengths and talents, as well as unique challenges. Learn about their strengths, their challenges as well as possible strategies, supports and services to support them when seeking and acquiring employment as well as maintaining employment.

BREAKOUT SESSION THREE | 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

SESSION A

Paraprofessionals: Strategies that Work

Presented by Jennifer Haughey, B.A

ABOUT THE PRESENTER: Jennifer Haughey, B.A., has a degree in special education and has been a classroom teacher for children with autism as well as a special education consultant/resource teacher. For the past 28 years, she has worked in various capacities at Easterseals Midwest, specializing in autism services. Currently, Jennifer serves in the role as a Family Navigator for the agency, developing plans for parents of newly diagnosed children as well as older individuals who are in need of various services and supports. She conducts ADOS (Autism Diagnostic and Observation Schedule) assessments of children, facilitates the PEERS and CFT social skills training groups and leads parent support groups. Jennifer is also the Community Education Specialist, providing autism training and education to teachers, medical students, residents, police officers, first responders, museum and library staff, as well as to parents.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SESSION: A school environment can be academically, behaviorally, and socially challenging for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Likewise, paraprofessionals often experience challenges in supporting these students in school. Paraprofessionals have a unique role in our schools and are crucial to providing needed supports to children with ASD. This presentation will provide an overview and understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders as well as useful strategies to support students with ASD in the school setting including: visual strategies, social skills supports, behavioral supports (including meltdowns and how to address them), the role of a paraprofessional, and more.

SESSION B

Missouri ABLE

Presented by Todd Gentry

ABOUT THE PRESENTER: Todd Gentry is a Certified Financial Planner and a Chartered Financial Consultant, which prepares him to meet the advanced financial planning needs of individuals, professionals & small business owners with in-depth coverage of the key financial planning disciplines. Todd has over 20 years of experience in the financial services industry. He was inspired to become a Special Needs Planner when he was asked to be a guardian for a family member. He discovered planning for an individual with Special Needs is unique and much more comprehensive. He understands the right skills can make all the difference to a family. Todd is also a sought after speaker on numerous financial topics and he teaches over 200 financial seminars a year. He takes great satisfaction in being able to convey complex financial concepts in a way that is understandable to all.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SESSION: Missourians with disabilities are now able to sign up for tax-advantaged savings accounts without having to risk losing federal benefits. This tool can help people save, without penalties to their Medicaid benefits. With these accounts, individuals in the disability community will be able to save money for things like education, medical expenses, housing, and more. This workshop will answer all of your questions about Missouri ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) accounts.



EASTERSEALS MIDWEST AUTISM CONFERENCE SERIES

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE | BRIDGETON
3221 MCKELVEY ROAD
BRIDGETON, MO 63044

REGISTRATION FORM

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Name _____

Organization _____ Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

BREAKOUT SESSION REGISTRATION | Please only select one per breakout session.

SESSION ONE | 10:45am - 12:15pm

- "Let's Eat! Understanding and Supporting Picky Eaters" presented by Lea Ann Lowery, OTD, OTR/L
- "Discipline Under IDEA" presented by Karen Cooper

SESSION TWO | 1:15pm - 2:45pm

- "Strategies for Teaching Social Skills" presented by Presented by Jennifer Haughey, B.A. & Randy Sanders MA/BCBA
- "Social Skills Barriers to Employment" presented by Ann Schad, LCSW & Jen Hyde, BS

SESSION THREE | 3:00pm - 4:30pm

- "Paraprofessionals: Strategies that Work" presented by Jennifer Haughey, B.A.
- "Missouri ABLE" presented by Todd Gentry

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

- Parents of a child with autism living in St. Louis County are able to attend for free (up to 2 people)
- All other parents – \$75,
- Professionals – \$100 Groups of 4 or more professionals – \$90 per person

METHOD OF PAYMENT

- Visa MasterCard American Express Discover Check Enclosed Purchase Order
(upon request)

Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____ 3-Digit Code _____

Name As It Appears on Card _____ Signature _____

Purchase Order # (If Applicable) _____

Please return form and make payment payable to:

Easterseals Midwest
10176 Corporate Square Drive, Suite 150
St. Louis, MO 63132
Attention to: Melanie Mills

Register online at:

eastersealsautismseries.com