

Improving Social Relatedness in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders: What Neuroscience Tells Us

Neuroscience has identified specific brain structures involved in social behavior and the development of empathy. Research indicates that observation, imitation and generalization of social behavior is critical to improve socialization skills and social relatedness. The purpose of this workshop is to provide practical information to families and professionals working with ASD individuals on how they can facilitate social awareness and social skills acquisition. The workshop describes strategies that parents, therapists and educators can use to help children and adolescents, and adults increase understanding of nonverbal and verbal communication through specific exercises involving ongoing feedback and conversation skills building; peer-to-peer engagement; facilitated relationships with family and friends; the shared viewing and discussion of media (movies and television); and recreational activities. New instruments for assessing social perception and cognition will be presented. The efficacy of software and new technologies will also be presented, particularly addressing its use in building social skills as well as providing framework from which to understand one's own mind as well as the thoughts and feelings of others.

By the end of the session, attendees will be able to:

1. Describe current research findings on social cognition when working with ASD individuals;
- 2 Utilize tools for assessment of social cognition;
3. Recognize brain areas involved in social cognition and behavior;
4. Utilize social exercises and computer software to improve social skills.

DATE: **October 14, 2010**

LOCATION: ***Spectrum Services 303 5th Ave. Suite 1003,
New York, NY***

TIME: **9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon- Mini-Course**

PRESENTER: **Mary Riggs Cohen, Ph.D. author of *Social Literacy***

COST: **\$ 100 (Please call 267-242-8097 to register)**