

# Introduction to Autism



## Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Application of Content, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content and Teachers Facilitate Learning.

Most of us know someone with autism. This neurodevelopmental condition impacts a student's ability to communicate, form social skills, and manage sensory challenges. Autism often affects a student's academic potential and learning style in the classroom. A person with autism may experience a unique way of thinking, remembering events, reacting, and communicating.

In this course, educators will find tried and tested strategies, tips, real-life examples, and insights to create more inclusive classrooms and help students on the autism spectrum thrive.



Certificate of  
Completion



100% Online



Quiz

# Introduction to Autism

## Course Outline

### LESSON 1: Overview

- Definition
- Symptoms and other similar conditions
- Therapies
- Labeling neurodevelopmental disorders
- The brain in Autism Spectrum Disorder

### LESSON 2: Social Skills in ASD

- Social skills and related challenges.
- Theory of the mind
- Teaching non-verbal learners
- Verbal processing, echolalia, perseveration, and scripting
- Abstract language, eye contact, empathy, spatial terms, and pronouns

### LESSON 3: Expressions of Autism

- Sensory hyposensitivity and hypersensitivity
- Splintered development, perseveration, and stress
- Part-to-whole or whole-to-part thinking
- The lack of social motivation and imagination in children with ASD
- Extraordinary abilities

### LESSON 4: ASD in School

- Neurological differences in children with ASD
- Central Coherence Theory
- Classroom physical environment
- Teaching materials and strategies
- Behavior management strategies
- Working with parents and team



5 Hours  
of Learning



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