

About the Presenter

Carol Gray

Carol Gray is the Director of The Gray Center for Social Learning and Understanding in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She recently completed over 22 years of employment with Jenison Public Schools in Jenison, Michigan, initially as a teacher with students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and in recent years as a consultant to students with ASD in inclusive educational programs. In 1991, Carol developed Social Stories™ and Comic Strip Conversations strategies that are used worldwide with children, adolescents, and adults with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). She has published several resources on topics related to children and adults with ASD, including articles on bullying, death and dying, and how to teach social understanding. (Carol's complete three-part series of articles, Gray's Guide to Bullying Parts I-III, 2000-2001, which had been unavailable for the last 1.5 - 2 years, was reprinted under one cover in a special edition of the Jenison Autism Journal, Vol 16 #1, 2004). She is the recipient of the Barbara Lipinski Award for her international contribution to the education and welfare of people with ASD.

Target Audience

Parents and professionals working on behalf of children with autism spectrum disorders of all ages, with applicability to adolescents and adults with ASD.

Description of Conference

It is well documented that children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD): 1) struggle to make accurate guesses about what the people around them are thinking and/or feeling; 2) have difficulty retrieving and sequencing information; 3) often miss the underlying meaning in social communication, and may 4) use logic and deduction to process the social information that others arrive at "intuitively". Unable to quickly "get the gist" of what is happening, a day at school may be a frustrating series of events, filled with directions that are misunderstood directions and failed interactions with peers. Understandably, a child with ASD may be attracted to pursuits in line with his/her strengths, i.e. topics and activities that are logical, meaningful, and thus, hold greater promise for success.

This fun and practical workshop uses lecture, demonstration, and activities to explore instructional strategies that directly address the core deficits in ASD through utilization of *everyone's* strengths. This includes: 1) a research based rationale; 2) a very new FAST TRACK to quickly learn/review the Social Stories 10.0™, the most recent defining criteria and guidelines for writing and implementing a Social Story, with demonstration of Social Stories™ in practice, and 3) social and emotional learning strategies that systematically model and teach friendship concepts and skills.

Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- 1) identify 3 cognitive theories that are relevant to teaching social concepts and skills (for example, *theory of mind*, *central coherence*, and *executive function*);
- 2) describe how to write and implement a Social Story;
- 3) define the term "paradigm" and explain it's relationship to "best practice" in education; and
- 4) list 3 strategies/ideas to model, build, and support friendly friendship opportunities and skills (including emotion regulation and effective conflict resolution) among all children in the classroom.

The conference is being held at:

Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center
One Lincoln Park
Midland, PA 15059

For more information:

724.624.4293 x 1528
autism@pacyber.org

Act 48 hours available.

Registration Fee - \$50

Fee includes: breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack, and handout.

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You can also register online and pay by
credit card at

www.thehopelearningcenter.com



Schedule

- 8:00am Registration
- 8:30am The rationale supporting Social Stories™ and the social understanding techniques
- 10:00am Break
- 10:15am How to write a Social Story™ using Social Stories™ 10.0
- 11:45am Lunch
- 1:00pm Using the social understanding approaches in the classroom, including *Correct, Confront, Concede, or Teach?*
- 2:30pm Break
- 2:45pm Additional strategies to promote positive social and emotional concepts and skills.
- 4:15pm Questions

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Carol Gray

Solving the Social Equation in Autism Spectrum Disorders:

From Social Stories™ to "Real-Life" Strategies for Home and School



Friday, April 18, 2008

8:30am - 4:30pm

Registration 8:00 am

Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center
Midland, PA 15059

The **HOPE** Learning Center

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