



## Naturalistic Strategies in Autism Treatment: The Latest Research on Pivotal Response Training



*Presented by Laura Schreibman, Ph.D.*

Distinguished Professor of Psychology  
Director of the Autism Research Project  
University of California, San Diego

Saturday, September 20, 2008, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

David Lam Auditorium  
MacLaurin Building, Ring Road  
University of Victoria

### About the Workshop

Dr. Schreibman will present on recent research into the use of natural environment teaching techniques in autism treatment. She will focus on a specific naturalistic behavioral strategy, Pivotal Response Training (PRT), which has been demonstrated to effectively promote spontaneity, social initiations, and to facilitate the generalization of new skills. She will discuss the background of PRT, describe what it is and how to do it, and present research findings and current research directions. Dr. Schreibman will also address research on the following important topics in autism treatment:

- The need to individualize autism treatment approaches to fit the child's learning profile.
- The potential of school age children with ASD to continue learning after age six.
- The positive role that trained parents and peers can play in autism treatment.

Dr. Schreibman will conclude the day by addressing the importance of critically evaluating claims of effectiveness by those who wish to take advantage of parental desperation by offering bogus treatment. She will also address some of the contemporary issues raging in the field of autism including the role of vaccines.

### About the Presenter

Dr. Laura Schreibman is acknowledged as one of the world's outstanding autism researchers and a skilled communicator of the key issues that concern those involved in autism treatment today. Dr. Schreibman began her involvement with autism treatment as a graduate student at UCLA working with Dr. Ivar Lovaas and his groundbreaking work demonstrating that children with autism could learn, using techniques based in applied behavior analysis. She has been working in the area of autism for over 30 years and has published three books and over 140 research papers and book chapters. A key research interest of Dr. Schreibman has been the development of the field of behavioral interventions beyond discrete trial to include more naturalistic techniques, including Pivotal Response Training. Recent publications include:

- *The Science and Fiction of Autism*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. (2005)
- A Preliminary Assessment of Teachers' Implementation of Pivotal Response Training. *Journal of Speech Language Pathology and Applied Behavior Analysis*, with Suhrheinrich, J. & Stahmer, A.C. (2007)
- Effectiveness of Training Parents to Teach Joint Attention Skills in Children with Autism. *Journal of Early Intervention*, with Rocha, M.L., & Stahmer, A.C. (2007)
- Individual Behavioral Profiles and Predictors of Treatment Effectiveness for Children with Autism. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 73, 525-538, with Sherer, M.R.

## ACT Information & Support Services

ACT is a registered not-for-profit society, founded by parents of children with ASD in 2003. ACT offers extensive information and support to families and community professionals on diagnostic, treatment and educational topics. We can be reached by telephone at 604-205-5467, toll-free at 1-866-939-5188, or e-mail [info@act-community.net](mailto:info@act-community.net).

## Acknowledging Our Sponsors & Community Partners

ACT is grateful for the financial support we have received from the Victoria law firm, Dwyer Tax Lawyers, which has made this event possible ([www.dwyertaxlaw.com](http://www.dwyertaxlaw.com)). ACT thanks the many parents and professionals across BC who volunteer their time to support our work. Our community volunteers range from local parents and community groups to members of our advisory board who provide a range of expertise. ACT recognizes the on-going support received from the Ministry of Children and Family for our family support and information work.

## ACT Bursaries

Parents may use up to 20% of their autism funding to pay for training workshops and travel costs. Some bursaries for low-income participants and/or those traveling from outside their region are available. Call ACT's office for more information or e-mail [info@actcommunity.net](mailto:info@actcommunity.net) with your request before registration. Bursaries are provided as reduced registration fees. For details, see our website at [www.actcommunity.net](http://www.actcommunity.net). Donations to ACT for our bursary fund enable us to make our workshops more affordable as many receive no external subsidy. ACT is a registered charity: #86169 1236 RR0001. Tax receipts are issued.

## Location, Schedule and Hotel Information

The David Lam Auditorium is located at the MacLaurin Building, off the Ring Road at the University of Victoria. Please see [www.actcommunity.net](http://www.actcommunity.net) for directions and for hotels that give preferred rates to our registrants, or call us for more information. For the workshop schedule, please check the website.

# REGISTRATION FORM

Dr. Laura Schreiber

You may register online at [www.actcommunity.net](http://www.actcommunity.net), unless you are requesting a bursary or registering as part of a group.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (for e-mail confirmation of your registration): \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive ACT info by post?  Yes Do you wish to receive workshop updates by e-mail?  Yes

ACT is committed to respecting your privacy. We do not share information with any other organization or individual. See [www.actcommunity.net](http://www.actcommunity.net) for privacy policy.

**COST** (ACT is no longer required to charge GST) \*

Early Bird Rate (postmarked by September 10, 2008)

Regular Rate (postmarked September 11 - 15, 2008)

Late Registration (postmarked after September 12 & at the door, space permitting)

**PARENTS, STUDENTS  
PARA-PROFESSIONALS**

\$80 CDN/US

\$125 CDN/US

\$175 CDN/US

**PROFESSIONALS**

\$100 CDN/US

\$150 CDN/US

\$200 CDN/US

\* Lunch is provided.

**GROUP RATE:** If registrants are not benefiting from other bursaries, three or more registrants paying at the same time, with one payment, requiring one receipt, receive a 20% discount.

Please check if you are the parent of a child with ASD

Please indicate your professional or para-professional status: \_\_\_\_\_

Para-professionals include group home staff, childcare workers, special education assistants, behaviour interventionists, preschool & supported childcare staff and foster parents. Students, please attach copy of student ID.

**METHOD OF PAYMENT:**  Cash  Cheque  
 Mastercard  VISA

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to on-line registration, ACT accepts telephone registration using a credit card at 604-205-5467, toll-free 1-866-939-5188 or by fax at 604-205-5345. Registrations are accepted only when accompanied by payment. Refunds for registration, less a \$25 handling charge are available until seven days prior to the workshop. Details of the cancellation policy are available on ACT's website. Cheques that are not honoured will result in a loss of registration status. Bank charges incurred by ACT as a result of a NSF cheque are the responsibility of the registrant. Cheques or money orders should be made out to: ACT—Autism Community Training. Mail to: Suite 240-2250 Boundary Road, Burnaby, BC Canada V5M 3Z3. To confirm registration, e-mail [info@actcommunity.net](mailto:info@actcommunity.net) or telephone 604-205-5467, toll-free 1-866-939-5188.