



What is ABA and Why is it Important in the Treatment of Autism?

Presented by Suzanne Jacobsen, Ed.D., BCBA
Clinical Director, ABA Learning Centre

Thursday, August 7, 2008
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Fletcher Challenge Theatre, Harbour Centre Campus
Simon Fraser University, 515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver

Why the Focus on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)?

In BC, once parents receive a diagnosis of autism for their child, they are expected to set up a treatment program using an approach grounded on Applied Behavior Analysis, in order to qualify for government funding. But what exactly is ABA? And why is it so crucial in autism treatment?

This engaging presentation, richly illustrated with video, will describe ABA's role as a contemporary intervention based on more than 40 years of scientific research. Dr. Jacobsen will explain the differences and overlap between commonly used terms that frequently confuse parents and community professionals. These include: discrete trial teaching, Lovaas therapy, the Verbal Behavior approach, Natural Environment Teaching and Positive Behavior Support.

Video of different procedures, strategies and techniques, which are all ABA, will be shown to illustrate the use of ABA in teaching a wide variety of skills to children and youth. These skills include learning to learn, communication, and behavior management. Dr. Jacobsen will describe the evidence that ABA, directed and delivered competently, and individualized to address the child's needs, is a powerful tool in autism treatment with the strongest foundation in research of any autism treatment approach.

Who Should Attend this Workshop?

The objective of this workshop is to prepare parents and community professionals with an understanding of the basics of ABA so that all members of a child's treatment team can better collaborate.

It is designed for parents and community professionals including educators, speech and occupational therapists, Infant Development and Supported Child Development Consultants. It will be helpful to all who want to better understand the role of Applied Behavior Analysis in the treatment of autism. While much of the video will be of younger children, the usefulness of ABA techniques for the treatment of children and youth with autism spectrum disorder is applicable across the age range.

The Presenter

Dr. Suzanne Jacobsen is well known to professionals and parents across BC for her exceptional range of expertise as a diagnostician, educator, psychologist and behavior consultant. She has lectured across North America and in Asia on various aspects of autism treatment.

A registered psychologist and certified teacher, Dr. Jacobsen is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, a certification that is becoming increasingly valued in the autism field. Her mentor is Dr. Vincent Carbone and she is particularly interested in how the Verbal Behavior approach to Applied Behavior Analysis can be used in high quality, cost-effective autism treatment programs. Dr. Jacobsen is Clinical Director of ABA Learning Centre. She is a member of the Advisory Council of ACT.



ACT Information & Support Services

ACT is a registered not-for-profit society, founded by parents of children with ASD in 2003. ACT's Information Officers are available to answer questions on which of our events would be relevant for the child or student you support. ACT also 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@actcommunity.net.

Acknowledging Our Community Partners

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 gratefully acknowledges the Consortium for the Advancement of Child Health—SFU for co-sponsoring our events and providing excellent facilities in Vancouver at a reduced cost. See www.sfu.ca/autism-lab/. ACT recognizes the on-going support provided by the Ministry of Children and Family Development for many of our training initiatives, including this one. The commitment of our presenters is particularly appreciated.

ACT Bursaries

Parents may use up to 20% of their autism funding to pay for training workshops and travel costs. ACT does offer bursaries, as long as our funds permit, for low income parents and those traveling from outside the Metro Vancouver area. Bursaries are provided as reduced registration fees. Call ACT's office for more information or e-mail info@actcommunity.net with your request before registration. For details, see our website at www.actcommunity.net. Donations to ACT for the bursary fund are gratefully received and 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

Harbour Centre is located at 515 West Hastings Street and is close to the Seabus terminal, West Coast Express, Skytrain and major bus routes. Parking is plentiful but expensive—public transit is a great option. Please visit ACT's website at www.actcommunity.net for hotels that give preferred rates to our registrants, or call us at 604-205-5467 or toll-free 1-866-939-5188. You may also e-mail us at info@actcommunity.net. For the workshop schedule, please check the website.

REGISTRATION FORM

What is ABA?

You may register online at 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: _____

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 for privacy policy.

COST (ACT is no longer required to charge GST)

Early Bird Rate (postmarked by July 11, 2008)

Regular Rate (postmarked July 12 – August 1, 2008)

Late Registration (postmarked after August 1 & at the door, space permitting)

**PARENTS, STUDENTS
PARA-PROFESSIONALS**

\$65 CDN/US

\$100 CDN/US

\$120 CDN/US

PROFESSIONALS

\$90 CDN/US

\$130 CDN/US

\$160 CDN/US

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. When both parents register to attend an event, the second parent pays only 50% of the registration fee.

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 or telephone 604-205-5467, toll-free 1-866-939-5188.