

SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MEMORANDUM

2014-2015: 045

TO: Elementary Principals
 Elementary Vice-principals
 Secondary Principals
 Secondary Vice-principals

FROM: Chris Samis
 Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: **INTERACTIVE SESSIONS FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS OF STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER**

Background

Throughout the past few years, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) and Kinark's School Support Program (SSP) have collaboratively offered information sessions on various topics related to Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA). This year, the Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences at Mackenzie Health is partnering with SCDSB Special Education Staff to offer eight after school workshops for **parents/guardians and educators** focusing on [Policy/Program Memorandum No. 140 \(PPM 140\) Incorporating Methods of Applied Behaviour Analysis \(ABA\) Into Programs for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders \(ASD\)](#) and the application of ABA strategies within programming. While ABA strategies are necessary for students with ASD, they are good strategies for all students. Staff and parents are invited to attend the after school workshops at the Education Centre.

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION	TIME
October 2, 2014	<u>Option #1:</u> Understanding Why Children Do What They Do	Education Centre	4:30 – 6:30
November 6, 2014	<u>Option #1:</u> Social Skills: Making and Keeping Friends. How to Teach Social Skills to Children with ASD <u>Option #2:</u> Rewards, Reinforcement and Special Interests	Education Centre	4:30 – 6:30
December 4, 2014	<u>Option #1:</u> Self-Regulation: Developing Self-Monitoring Skills and Strategies <u>Option #2:</u> Communication is Key! Different Ways of Teaching Communication Skills	Education Centre	4:30 – 6:30
January 8, 2015	<u>Option #1:</u> Going from Here to There: Tough Transitions Within the Day and Over Time <u>Option #2:</u> Sexuality Education	Education Centre	4:30 – 6:30

February 5, 2015	<p><u>Option #1:</u> Social Skills: Making and Keeping Friends. How to Teach Social Skills to Children with ASD</p> <p><u>Option #2:</u> Rewards, Reinforcement and Special Interests</p>	Education Centre	4:30 – 6:30
March 5, 2015	<p><u>Option #1:</u> Self-Regulation: Developing Self-Monitoring Skills and Strategies</p> <p><u>Option #2:</u> Communication is Key! Different Ways of Teaching Communication Skills</p>	Education Centre	4:30 – 6:30
April 9, 2015	<p><u>Option #1:</u> Going from Here to There: Tough Transitions Within the Day and Over Time</p> <p><u>Option #2:</u> Sexuality Education</p>	Education Centre	4:30 – 6:30
May 7, 2015	<p><u>Option #1:</u> We Are All in It Together! Your Community Partners</p>	Education Centre	4:30 – 6:30

Action Required

All are welcome to attend. Teachers and administrators planning to attend can register for any of the above after school presentations on the staff website using the registration utility at <http://staff.scdsb.on.ca>. Parents wishing to attend are asked to contact Sue McNabb in the Special Education Department at (705) 734-6363 ext. 11246 or smcnabb@scdsb.on.ca to register. Since a limited number of spaces will be reserved for parents, registration will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Information about sessions is also available at www.scdsb.on.ca.

Principals are asked to share information about this opportunity with parents and community in three different ways:

1. Place information in a school newsletter and/or on your school website. See APPENDIX A for insert:
2. Posters advertising the sessions are available as APPENDIX B. Please place the posters throughout the school and if possible, on your school's website.
3. Share posters with parents who you feel would be interested in the opportunity.

If you have any questions, please contact Tina Holroyd, Central Program Consultant in Special Education at (705) 734-6363 ext. 11803 or tholroyd@scdsb.on.ca.

Newsletter and/or School Website Insert

The Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences at Mackenzie Health is partnering with Simcoe County District School Board's Special Education Staff to offer eight after school workshops for parents/guardians and educators focusing on [Policy/Program Memorandum No. 140 \(PPM 140\) Incorporating Methods of Applied Behaviour Analysis \(ABA\) Into Programs for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders \(ASD\)](#) and the application of ABA strategies within programming. While ABA strategies are necessary for students with ASD, they are good strategies for all students. Staff and parents are invited to attend the after school workshops at the Education Centre.

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APPENDIX A - 2

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Interactive Sessions for Parents and Educators of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders

SCDSB Education Centre
1170 Hwy 26 Midhurst, Ontario, L0L 1X0
Parents/Community: Register by contacting Sue McNabb at smcnabb@scdsb.on.ca
or at (705)-734-6363 ext 11246
Administration/Teachers/Support Staff: Register using the registration tool

Date/Time	Event	Description
October 2, 2014 4:30-6:30	Option #1: Understanding Why Children Do What they Do	This session will address child behaviour: an understanding of why children behave the way they do while exploring ABA based, school board supports for best outcomes.
November 6, 2014 4:30-6:30 AND	Option # 1: Social Skills: Making and Keeping Friends. How to Teach Social Skills to Children with ASD Option # 2: Rewards, Reinforcement and Special Interests	Option #1: This session will provide strategies to teach social skills and support the development of positive relationships which will include discussion on bullying and building resiliency skills. Option #2: Come learn how to gather and assess information on your child's interests and how to use positive reinforcement to teach pro social behaviours.
February 5, 2015 4:30-6:30		
December 4, 2014 4:30-6:30 AND	Option #1: Self-Regulation: Developing Self-Monitoring Skills and Strategies Option #2: Communication is Key! Different Ways of Teaching Communication Skills	Option #1: This session focuses on how to teach individuals to identify triggers of anxiety and use appropriate alternative strategies to cope with difficult situations. Option #2: This session will provide you with tools and strategies to teach communication skills using verbal and non-verbal methods.
March 5, 2015 4:30-6:30		
January 8, 2015 4:30-6:30 AND	Option #1: Going from Here to There: Tough Transitions Within the Day and over time Option #2: Sexuality Education	Option #1: This session will teach you how to minimize and work through difficult day to day transitions (e.g., one class to another), as well as larger life transitions (e.g., grade 8 to 9). Option #2: This session will review ways of teaching healthy sexuality education as well as key strategies to address areas of concerns related to sex education.
April 9, 2015 4:30-6:30		
May 7, 2015 4:30-6:30	Option #1: We Are All in It Together! Your Community Partners	Come and meet your community partner agencies to discuss services and partnerships that will meet the needs of individuals with ASD in your community.