



Sexuality and Sexual Education with Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder: What Parents, Teachers, and Behavior Analysts Need to Know

Dr. Peter Gerhardt

Saturday, December 6, 2014

9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Prince William Campus, Verizon Auditorium

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Persons with ASD are sexual beings. However, individual interest in sex or in developing an intimate sexual relationship with another person varies widely across individuals at all ability levels. Unfortunately, despite much discussion about decision making skills in the self-determination literature there continues to be lack of evidence supporting the effectiveness of sex education and training for persons with autism spectrum disorders, which Behavior Analysis can provide. This workshop will provide an overview of the issues related to sexuality education in ASD with an emphasis the application of Behavior Analytic Interventions to teach safety skills, social competence, and basic sexuality information.

After attending this workshop participants will be able to:

1. Identify the components of sexuality education across the lifespan
2. Discuss the implications of ABA in the development of sexuality education programs and interventions.
3. Discuss the process by which appropriate sexuality education materials can be developed.
4. Develop and implement programs designed to teach sexual safety here.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Dr. Gerhardt is the President of Peter Gerhardt Associates, LLC. Dr. Gerhardt has more than 30 years experience utilizing the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis in support of adolescents and adults with autism spectrum disorders in educational, employment, residential and community-based settings. He has authored and co-authored articles and book chapters on the needs of adolescents and adults with ASD and has presented nationally and internationally on this topic. Dr. Gerhardt serves as Chairman of the Scientific Council for the Organization for Autism Research, is on the Editorial Board of Behavior Analysis in Practice and on numerous professional advisory boards.



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