

# ACT Events in 2015



In 2015, ACT hosted 26 events, providing 39 training days in six communities in B.C. Three evening presentations were offered in Punjabi.

Kamloops, Kelowna,  
Prince George, Sidney,  
Surrey and Vancouver

Over 1,900 people attended an ACT event gaining over 12,500 hours of training. 33 dedicated workshop volunteers provided 300 volunteer hours, aiding the overall success of our workshops.

Over \$24,000 was awarded in bursaries in the form of reduced event registration fees to encourage participants to attend from across B.C.

*"Just want to say a very special thank you for granting the bursary... otherwise as a student I cannot afford it and will miss useful, educational workshops!" - Student*

We recorded six of our events this year, with support from our knowledgeable presenters, who kindly allowed us to film their presentations, and sponsors, whose contributions supported production costs, maintenance and content development of the videos. These videos are free to watch, and will be made available on ACT's online video platform, Autism Videos @ ACT (AVA). Browse at [www.actcommunity.ca/videos](http://www.actcommunity.ca/videos)

## January 31, 2015 – Vancouver

### **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the Role of Occupational Therapy in Autism Treatment**

Presented by: Sheija Abraham, B.OT, Diploma Child Psychology; Brian Lai, BScOT, MHS; Jane Remocker, BSROT

*"It was great! Very informative and definitely touched base on areas that I can apply to in my work with children." – Professional*

## February 20, 2015 – Sidney

### **Teaching Social Thinking through Stories and Play for Early Learners**

Presented by: Kari Palmer, MA, CCC-SLP & Ryan Hendrix, MS, CCC-SLP

Co-sponsored by Dwyer Tax Lawyers

*"Numerous concepts and strategies that will be useful in my day to day interactions and lessons with special needs students." – Professional*

**February 21, 2015 – Sidney**

**Implementing Social Thinking Concepts and Vocabulary into the School and Home**

Presented by: Kari Palmer, MA, CCC-SLP &

Ryan Hendrix, MS, CCC-SLP

Co-sponsored by Dwyer Tax Lawyers

*"This event is so great. Ryan and Kari are such great presenters and provided me with a wealth of information to take home and use." – Parent*

**March 27, 2015 – Vancouver**

**ESSENCE: What research is telling us about the need for interdisciplinary collaboration to meet the needs of children with a range of neurodevelopmental conditions – ACT's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Focus on Research Event**

Presented by: Christopher Gillberg, MD, PhD

*"I now have the tools to suggest that other disorders be explored as an underlying reason for delay or impairment." – Professional*

**April 18, 2015 – Vancouver**

**Update on ACT's Resources and A Panel Discussion on Advocacy**

Presented by: ACT Staff and various community partners

*"Fantastic to see the collaboration amongst organizations." – Professional*

**April 24, 2015 – Kelowna**

**The ASD-Friendly Classroom (It's a Student-Friendly Classroom!)**

Presented by: Allison Adams, MA

*"Nice to hear a bit about a lot of different programs" – Para-professional*

**April 25, 2015 – Kelowna**

**Faster than a Speeding Bullet: iPads in Autism Intervention**

Presented by: Brenda Fossett, PhD, BCBA-D

*"Excellent ideas on how to better use the iPad to help my son" – Parent*

**May 29, 2015 – Vancouver**

**Identifying and Treating Co-occurring Mental Health Challenges in Children with ASD**

Presented by: Vikram Dua, MD, FRCPC

*Filmed for Autism Videos @ ACT*

*"I learned a lot of practical and applicable information/ research to use in meetings with parents and staff members." – Professional*

**June 6, 2015 – Prince George**

**Positive Behavior Support – What Parents Need to Know!**

Presented by: Brenda Fossett, PhD, BCBA-D

*"I learned strategies to bring an organized approach to addressing my children's problem behaviors." – Family member*

**July 11 & 12, 2015 – Vancouver**

**Early Intervention with Very Young Children at Risk of ASD**

Presented by: Laurie Vismara, PhD, BCBA-D

*"Very informative and applicable to my current and future practice." – Student and Para-professional*

**July 20 – 24, 2015 – Vancouver**

**Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders: Practical Applications (POPARD)**

Presented by: Kenneth D. Cole, PhD, RPsych

*"The whole week was very positive, kind to parents, informative and motivating. Thank you." – Parent*

July 29 & 30, 2015 – Vancouver

**SMILE – Structured Methods in Language Education: A Multisensory Language Learning Program**

Presented by: Enid Wolf-Schein, Ed.D, CCC-SLP & Rhonda Bachmann, M.S. Ed.

*"It was great to know types of common barriers to treatment progress and approaches to trouble shooting." – Professional*

July 31, 2015 – Vancouver

**Strategies for Working with Young Children with Autism: Supporting Slower Responders**

Presented by: Richard Stock, PhD, BCBA-D

*"Excellent presentation - Timely, informative – practical." – Professional*

August 13 – 15, 2015 – Vancouver

**PEERS® Certified School-Based Provider Training**

Presented by: Elizabeth Laugeson, PsyD

*"Abundance of info - Great workshop" - Professional*

August 17 – 21, 2015 – Vancouver

**Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders: Practical Applications (POPARD)**

Presented by: Kenneth D. Cole, PhD, RPsych

*"This course will benefit me as a teacher and my students. Loved learning different strategies." – Professional*

September 17 & 18, 2015 – Vancouver

**Social Thinking and Mental Health Frameworks – Blending Strategies to Reach Our Students**

Presented by: Nancy Clements, MA, CCC-SLP & Nancy Cotton, PhD

*"This was my first ACT event and I enjoyed it very much. My mind was stretched and I am so excited to learn more. Excellent speakers! So knowledgeable, relatable and friendly." – Professional*

October 2, 2015 – Kamloops

**The Essentials of Advocacy – A Parent's Guide to Advocating for Their Child With Special Needs**

Presented by: Deborah Pugh, Executive Director, ACT – Autism Community Training

*"A great approach to make yourself heard and respected without becoming the "problem parent". – Parent*

October 3, 2015 – Kamloops

**Positive Behavior Support – What Parents Need to Know!**

Presented by: Brenda Fossett, PhD, BCBA-D

*"This event reaffirmed my belief and renewed my faith that parents can and should be active participants in their child's assessments and intervention." – Professional*

October 13, 2015 – Surrey (in Punjabi)

**The Individualised Education Plan (IEP)—what the school is supposed to do and how the parent can support the IEP process**

Presented by Raminder Kaur, Surrey School District

*Filmed for Autism Videos @ ACT*

October 23, 2015 – Vancouver

**Thriving in Youth with ASD – What Does It Take?**

Presented by: Jonathan Weiss, PhD

*Filmed for Autism Videos @ ACT  
"Thank you for ACTing as a provocative and caring agent for positive social change. All the best for an even better ACT and the world we live in." – Student*

**November 7, 2015 – Vancouver**

**Positive Behavior Support – What Parents Need to Know!**

Presented by: Brenda Fossett, PhD, BCBA-D

*Filmed for Autism Videos @ ACT*

*"Excellent tips on collaborating and supporting families, excellent definitions and descriptions of steps involved in creating a PBS plan." - Para-professional*

**November 17, 2015 – Surrey (in Punjabi)**

**Advocacy Tools for Parents— how to help your child get the services they need**

Presented by: Deborah Pugh, Executive Director, ACT – Autism Community Training

**November 20, 2015 – Vancouver**

**The Essentials of Advocacy – A Parent’s Guide to Advocating for Their Child With Special Needs**

Presented by: Deborah Pugh, Executive Director, ACT – Autism Community Training

*Filmed for Autism Videos @ ACT*

*"More events of this type will change the attitudes or the experiences of many parents and individuals who provide services to our children." – Parent*

**November 21, 2015 – Vancouver**

**Taking Control of the Future – Planning for Families with Special Needs**

Presented by: Blair Dwyer and Layli Antinuk

*Filmed for Autism Videos @ ACT*

*"You really helped clarify terms and definitions. It's not as scary sounding anymore. Thank you!" - Family Member*

**December 1, 2015 – Surrey (in Punjabi)**

**One Parent’s Journey in Autism— the important role that family plays in supporting their child with autism**

Presented by: Sunita Braich

*Filmed for Autism Videos @ ACT*

**December 5, 2015 – Vancouver**

**Faster than a Speeding Bullet: iPads in Autism Intervention**

Presented by: Brenda Fossett, PhD, BCBA-D

*"I realized the diversity of tools we can use with the apps." – Para-professional*

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Upcoming ACT events: [www.actcommunity.ca/events](http://www.actcommunity.ca/events)

Free Online Autism Videos @ ACT: [www.actcommunity.ca/videos](http://www.actcommunity.ca/videos)

Sponsorship: We greatly appreciate the support we receive from Simon Fraser University.