

2018 Conference Calendar

April – December



ACT's 14th Annual Focus on Research Conference: What is Research Telling Us About Women and Girls with Autism?

April 5 & 6, 2018 – Vancouver, B.C. & Web Streaming
Two keynotes, three panels



Cutting Edge Strategies to Improve Executive Function Skills

May 3 & 4, 2018 – Surrey, B.C. & Web Streaming
Sarah Ward, MS, CCC-SLP
Co-Director, Cognitive Connexions LLP, Boston



Social Stories with Carol Gray

July 19 & 20, 2018 – Nanaimo, B.C.
Carol Gray
Founder and Innovator, Social Stories Satellite Schools and Services,
and Carol's Club



Social Thinking Conference

August 16 & 17, 2018 – Vancouver, B.C.
Michelle Garcia Winner, MA, CCC-SLP
Pamela Crooke, PhD, CCC-SLP

ACT – Autism Community Training

Canada's leading source of web-streamed, evidence-based, community-focused training

View event details & registration at:
www.actcommunity.ca/events

Nine live events:
Nanaimo, Surrey and Vancouver

Web streaming available for five events!
Watch & participate across B.C. and internationally:
www.actcommunity.ca/webstreaming

Web Streaming Information

www.actcommunity.ca/webstreaming

ACT's web streaming events are LIVE online video broadcasts. We work with professional video production companies to bring you conferences and events from British Columbia, to watch and participate from anywhere in the world. Our system is designed to be simple to use, with a built-in chat function that allows you to ask questions and get feedback from presenters on the issues you care about. No special equipment or software is necessary, all you need to watch is a computer, laptop, or tablet.

ACT is web streaming six events, available on any device that can stream YouTube, from anywhere in the world. Events with web streaming can be found by looking for "Web Streaming" beside the event location, or visit www.actcommunity.ca/webstreaming.

Donate to Support ACT's Free Information and Training Resources

www.actcommunity.ca/donate

It is challenging to maintain ACT's many free resources, as ACT no longer benefits from sharing overhead costs with other services provided under contract to the B.C. government. However, with 96% of respondents to our 2017 survey expressing satisfaction with ACT's online resources, we have been encouraged to seek private donations and sponsorship to sustain ACT's free online information and training resources including:

- » **Autism Videos @ ACT** (www.actcommunity.ca/videos) and its 28 videos, with its focus on providing families and community professionals with positive, practical, comprehensive and evidence-based information.
- » **Autism Information Database** (www.actcommunity.ca/aid), with links to over 1,300 evidence-informed resources, in many languages, vetted by ACT's staff and overseen by an international expert panel.. The AID helps parents and professionals find authoritative resources, sourced internationally, using a simple keyword search.

As a federally registered Canadian not-for-profit society, ACT can provide tax receipts for donations over \$10. ACT's Charitable Tax Number is #861691236RR0001.

April 5 - 6, 2018 (Thursday & Friday) – Vancouver & Web Streaming

ACT's 14th Annual Focus on Research Conference:

What is Research Telling Us About Women and Girls with Autism?

Live stream: Watch and participate live from anywhere by registering for web streaming (all times PST).

Historically, research and clinical practice has accepted that roughly 4 out of 5 of those affected by autism are male but researchers are now recognizing that autism manifests differently among females with implications for both diagnosis and care. The issue of how autism affects women and girls differently has recently been the topic for important research as professionals realize that the needs of girls and women are not being accorded the resources they require.



About the Conference

The conference will feature several panel discussions, including a panel of women with ASD, presenting their perspectives, and a panel of mothers with ASD. In addition, a panel of researchers and clinicians will explore the practical measures needed to better support girls and women with ASD.

Day 1 Keynote: *Improving the identification and care of women on the autism spectrum* with Dr. William Mandy, University College London, UK

Day 2 Keynote: *Girls Night Out: Lessons learned from a unique intervention for girls with autism* with Dr. Rene Jamison and Dr. Jessica Oeth Schuttler, University of Kansas

For a detailed event schedule and speaker and panelist bios, visit www.actcommunity.ca/for2018

For: Community Professionals, Researchers, Family Members and Women with ASD

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Focus: Informing community professionals and family members about the research associated with autism in females using the framework of evidence-based practice

Autism-specific? Yes

| Registration Deadlines | Parents, Students & Para-Pros | Professionals |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Regular Rate Ends March 29 | \$175 | \$225 |
| Late Rate Begins March 30 | \$200 | \$250 |

May 3 - 4, 2018 (Thursday & Friday) – Web Streaming across B.C. *

Cutting Edge Strategies to Improve Executive Function Skills

Sarah Ward, MS, CCC-SLP, Co-Director, Cognitive Connections LLP, Boston

Sarah Ward, MS, CCC-SLP, is coming to Surrey to teach hands-on practical strategies to improve Executive Function skills. Whether you've seen Sarah Ward before, or this is all new, you're sure to walk away with practical strategies to help you better assist clients, students, or your own children, that you can implement immediately.

Through demonstration and practice, you will learn how to teach students the following executive control skills: awareness; forethought; waiting and planning skills; shifting; pacing; flexibility; speed of information processing.

Individuals with strong executive function skills stay a beat ahead. Strong executive function skills enable us to imagine and plan a "dry run" of the task in our mind before we begin to carry out the plan. When forethought guides children's actions, they can carry out tasks more successfully.

* In-person seats are sold out; web streaming registration is available.



For: Special educators, teachers, psychologists, behavior consultants/analysts, social workers, SLP's, OT's, parents.

Level: Introductory/Intermediate

Focus: Executive Functioning

Autism-specific? No - Relevant for a range of special needs

Web Streaming rate - In-person sold out

\$350 for all categories

Register for a second event and receive \$50 off with coupon code **50off2**

» "Sarah is a knowledgeable, enthusiastic presenter with a gift for providing a lot of practical strategies and information in an enjoyable and well paced manner. I enjoyed learning and filling my tool kit with practical and very useful strategies." - Professional

July 19 - 20, 2018 - Nanaimo

Social Stories with Carol Gray

Carol Gray, Director, Team Social Stories and Social Stories Satellite Schools and Services, Michigan

Social Stories can play an essential role in enhancing communication and bringing down anxiety among individuals with ASD. Over the past two decades, Social Stories, and their innovator, Carol Gray, have earned the respect of parents, professionals, and people with autism, for their utility in providing clear explanations of what is often a confusing social world. This Social Stories 10.2 workshop, led by Carol Gray, will devote two full days to the art and science of Social Stories, with the focus on practicing skills and discussing new strategies.

Learning how to research, develop, and implement a genuine Social Story is critical to their effectiveness, safety, and integrity. While one of the most popular evidence-based instructional strategies for learners with autism, Social Stories are also frequently misused. This workshop will define clearly the criteria for what a Social Story is and how you can develop them to build positive social concepts and skills in an individually tailored, unassuming, and supportive learning context.

Carol Gray is a consultant to children, adolescents, and adults with autism, providing support via workshops and presentations, information, referral, resources, and direct services for individuals with autism, their families, and professionals who work on their behalf.

Carol Gray is best known for the development of Social Stories, a well-respected evidence-based practice used worldwide with people with autism of all ages. She is an internationally sought-after keynote and seminar speaker, and has completed over 1,000 presentations.

At the close of the workshop day, participants will be able to:

- » Outline the philosophy and research-based rationale of every Social Story;
- » Explain how the Social Story goal may be used by any parent or professional to determine what is – and is not – a Social Story;
- » List the 10.2 criteria that ensure the integrity and safety of every Story, while demonstrating 'fluency' and understanding of the 10.1 criteria;
- » Define all Social Story terms;
- » Describe how research and philosophy create important ties between how a Story is researched, developed, and implemented;
- » Write a Social Story.



For: Family Members, Educators and Para-Professionals, Psychologists, SLPs, Behaviour Consultants/Analysts

Level: Introductory/Intermediate

Focus: Lifespan

Autism-specific? No - Relevant for a range of special needs

Certification: Participants will receive an Advanced Social Story Certificate at the conclusion of the workshop.

| Registration Deadlines | Parents, Students & Para-Pros | Professionals |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Early Bird Rate Ends May 30 | \$300 | \$375 |
| Regular Rate Ends July 11 | \$350 | \$400 |
| Late Rate Begins July 12 | \$375 | \$425 |

Two dates to choose from:

July 30 - August 3, 2018 (Monday to Friday) – Surrey
October 29 - November 2, 2018 (Monday to Friday) – Vancouver

Introduction to ASD – Practical Applications for School-Age Children

Kenneth Cole, PhD, R.Psych., Consultant, Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Related Disorders

This 30 hour course, taught by the experienced and engaging Dr. Ken Cole, with a small group of participants, reflects evidence-based practice in teaching students with autism. This course includes pre-reading, practical hands-on activities, demonstration, coaching and application exercises, as well as a variety of ways of evaluating participant learning. It is a requirement for teaching assistants in many school districts and is open to community professionals and parents.

Dr. Cole is a Registered Psychologist at the Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Related Disorders (POPARD). In addition, he is a District Psychologist in the Surrey School District.

Course capacity: 30 people - please register early to avoid disappointment.

For: School Teams, Community Professionals & Parents

Level: Introductory/Intermediate

Focus: School-age children

Autism-specific? Yes

| Registration Deadlines | Parents, Students & Para-Pros | Professionals |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Early Bird Rate | \$410 | \$450 |
| Regular Rate | \$450 | \$490 |
| Late Rate | \$475 | \$515 |
| See www.actcommunity.ca/events for rate deadline dates | | |

» "Amazing and useful information. I wish our whole staff could attend!!"

» "Ken was excellent in presenting the information in a very natural, straight-forward way. He was always available to answer questions- offer suggestions and re-explain a concept."



August 16 - 17, 2018 (Thursday & Friday) – Vancouver

Social Thinking Conference

Michelle Garcia Winner, MA, CCC-SLP – Founder & CEO of Social Thinking

Pamela Crooke, PhD, CCC-SLP – Chief Strategy Officer of Research, and the Director of Social Thinking Training & Speakers Collaborative, Santa Clara, California

Social Thinking methodology teaches individuals with social learning challenges to think about the social world, in order to communicate more effectively. It provides practical frameworks and strategies to help interpret and respond to abstract social information. It is relevant to individuals with autism and/or ADHD, whose academic performance is in the normal range but who face significant challenges in social understanding.

Thursday - Emotions and Self-Regulation: Concepts and Strategies to Navigate Emotions

Presented by Michelle Garcia Winner

Building on Social Thinking methodology, this is a new workshop in which Michelle Winner explores the muddy waters of feelings and emotions, both intrapersonal and interpersonal. Newly explored concepts, frameworks and strategies will be shared for use with individuals with social-learning challenges, and the professionals and families who support them. As the attendee makes sense of this information, it will also help them make sense of themselves!

Friday - Social Detective, Superflex®, and Friends Take On Social-Learning

Presented by Pamela Crooke

This day focuses on teaching to fidelity the strategies of core Social Thinking curricula *You Are a Social Detective!* and *Superflex*. These provide developmentally appropriate tools to foster social attention and self-regulation for students in kindergarten through middle school. This is an interactive day filled with creative group activities to help our students move from being "Me" thinkers to "We" thinkers. The connection between these lessons and educational/academic standards in the mainstream classroom will be examined to see how they can help improve reading comprehension, written expression, conflict resolution, and working as part of a group.

Social
Thinking
if.com



For: Educators, teachers; SLPs, OTs, PTs; psychologists; social workers; paraprofessionals; family members.

Level: Intermediate

Focus: School-age students and adults who have social and communication difficulties.

Autism-specific? No - Relevant for a range of special needs

| Registration Deadlines | Parents, Students & Para-Pros | Professionals |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Early Bird Rate Ends June 1 | \$300 | \$375 |
| Regular Rate Ends August 8 | \$350 | \$400 |
| Late Rate Begins August 9 | \$375 | \$425 |

» "Biggest take away: start where kids are. Not where you think they should be."

» "Strategies to teach abstract concepts in very concrete ways."

August 24, 2018 (Friday) – Vancouver & Web Streaming

Non-aversive Strategies to Assist Individuals with Autism and Challenging Behaviours

Andrew McDonnell, PhD, Director, Studio3 Training Systems, U.K.

This day will focus on how to manage behaviours of concern using a low arousal approach, developed by Dr. McDonnell to help support personnel in schools and group homes manage 'highly aroused' and stressed individuals. The emphasis will be on verbal and nonverbal strategies to de-escalate crisis situations. In addition, the approach involves 'reflective practice' that is, 'What is my own contribution to the situation?'

Low-arousal approaches include interaction, diffusion and distraction strategies; coping with challenging behaviours including debriefing – why it is necessary and how to do it, managing versus changing behaviours, physical avoidance skills and physical intervention strategies.

Dr. Andrew McDonnell is a Clinical Psychologist and Director of Studio3 Training Systems, based in the UK. He has a special interest in arousal mechanisms in people with autism and the management of severe challenging behaviours.

See www.actcommunity.ca/events for details including learning objectives



For: Family members, behaviour support practitioners, psychologists and front line agency and teaching staff.

Level: Intermediate (an understand of autism assumed)

Focus: Lifespan

Autism-specific? Yes

| Registration Deadlines | Parents, Students & Para-Pros | Professionals |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Early Bird Rate Ends June 6 | \$200 | \$250 |
| Regular Rate Ends Aug 10 | \$250 | \$300 |
| Late Rate Begins Aug 11 | \$300 | \$350 |

September 27 - 28, 2018 (Thursday & Friday) – Vancouver

Managing the Anxious Symptoms of Children and Adolescents with ASD - Practical Strategies

Judy Reaven, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, University of Colorado, Denver

Children and adolescents with ASD are at high risk for developing anxiety symptoms that interfere with functioning at home, school and in the community. Research has shown that they demonstrate significant reductions in anxiety following participation in modified Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) interventions. Facing Your Fears (FYF) is a group CBT intervention for managing anxiety in youth with ASD. Throughout the training, participants will learn about FYF, identify core components of the clinic based FYF program, learn how to modify FYF for teens with ASD and intellectual disabilities, as well as strategies for delivering FYF in school settings. Video examples and interactive small group activities will be presented throughout the training.

Dr. Reaven is Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and is the Associate Director of JFK Partners as well as Director of Research for JFK Partners/Developmental Pediatrics. She is the primary developer of Facing Your Fears (FYF), a cognitive behavior therapy group treatment intervention for anxiety symptoms in children with ASD.

For learning outcomes and other details visit www.actcommunity.ca/events



For: Psychologists, Educators and Therapists

Level: Intermediate/Advanced – an understanding of Cognitive Behavior Therapy is assumed

Focus: Addressing anxiety in children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism-specific? Yes but may be relevant to other conditions

| Registration Deadlines | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Early Bird Rate Ends July 26 | \$300 |
| Regular Rate Ends Sept 20 | \$375 |
| Late Rate Begins Sept 21 | \$450 |

October 19 - 20, 2018 (Friday & Saturday) – Vancouver & Web Streaming

Positive Behavior Support in Schools Conference

Lynn Kern Koegel, CCC-SLP, Clinical Professor, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University, California

Ilene Schwartz, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Professor and Chair, Special Education, University of Washington

This two day conference will feature a number of presentations focused on the use of PBS strategies in the school environment with children with special needs.

Keynotes:

Practical Ways to Decrease Challenging Behaviors in School, Home, and Community Settings with Dr. Lynn Kern Koegel, Stanford University, California

This presentation will discuss various intervention procedures for decreasing challenging behaviors. The emphasis will be on Positive Behavior Support evidence-based procedures that are coordinated, multi-component, and systematically implemented throughout the individual's day.



PBS – Working Together to Support Children and Families with Dr. Ilene Schwartz, University of Washington

Supporting students with disabilities and their families takes a village. The village includes the student, their peers, family members, friends, and a variety of professionals from different disciplines. Sometimes these professionals let their disciplinary differences create barriers to providing seamless services to students and families. The purpose of this presentation is to discuss strategies that professionals can employ to work collaboratively to enhance outcomes for students with disabilities.



Save the date!

Registration opens May 2nd at
www.actcommunity.ca/events

November 2, 2018 – Vancouver & Web Streaming

INVESTing in Girls and Women with ASD

Dori Zener, MSW, RSW, Toronto

Girls and women with ASD largely camouflage their characteristics in an effort to pass as neurotypical. Due to their difficulties reading social cues, girls and women with ASD are disproportionately victims of bullying, sexual assault and abusive relationships. Mental health challenges such anxiety, depression, panic, eating disorders, ADHD, OCD and addictions often come to the attention of professionals before an ASD diagnosis is given, if at all.



INVEST: Identify Needs, Validate, Educate, Strengthen and Thrive has been developed by Dori Zener based on her extensive clinical experience with women and girls with ASD. During this one day workshop, participants will learn how to use the INVEST model to:

- » Assess needs and elicit strengths
- » Create a therapeutic environment that validates and fosters resilience
- » Teach models for introducing important topics such as personal safety, gender identity, adapting to change
- » Use therapeutic techniques to develop emotional regulation, social skills and greater self care
- » Support girls and women as they thrive with new challenges and experiences

Dori Zener, MSW, RSW, is an Individual, Couple and Family Therapist

in Toronto. She has been working with individuals affected by ASD and learning differences for over a decade, with a particular interest in girls and women. She hosts "Asperfemme," a free support group for women on the spectrum.

For: Psychologists, Counsellors, Social Workers, Educators, People with Autism, Family Members, Behavior Consultants/Analysts

Level: Intermediate/Advanced, some experience and understanding of autism is assumed

Focus: Adolescent and adults with ASD without significant cognitive impairments but with difficulties in social understanding.

Autism-specific? Yes

| Registration Deadlines | Parents, Students & Para-Pros | Professionals |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Early Bird Rate Ends Sept 19 | \$150 | \$200 |
| Regular Rate Ends Oct 24 | \$200 | \$225 |
| Late Rate Begins Oct 25 | \$225 | \$275 |

REGISTRATION FORM 2018



Please confirm your registration before booking your flight – cancellation insurance is recommended.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Name: | | Home or Cell Phone: |
| Organization: | | Work Phone: |
| Address: | | |
| City: | Province/State: | Postal/Zip Code: |
| Email: ACT will be emailing a link to the conference handouts - check your spam folder. Contact us if you do not receive your confirmation of registration within a week. | I wish to: <input type="checkbox"/> Receive periodic updates by post <input type="checkbox"/> Join ACT's confidential email list* | |
| Registration Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Professional (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/> Para-Professional (please specify): | | <input type="checkbox"/> Full-time Student (please include copy of student ID) <input type="checkbox"/> Person with ASD or other Special Need <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Family Member of a person with ASD or Special Need |

* We do not share information with any other organization or individual. See www.actcommunity.ca/privacy-policy.

Payment

Name of event(s) that you are registering for: _____

Payment Amount: \$ _____ Date registration submitted: _____

Attendance Type: ☐ In-person ☐ Web streaming

Method of Payment: ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

ACT is a not-for-profit society and is not required to charge HST or GST.

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| Name on Card: | Signature: | |
| Card Number: | Expiry Date: | CVV Code: |

In addition to registering online, you may also register by telephone using a credit card or fax to (604) 205-5345. Registrations are accepted only when accompanied by payment. Refunds for registration, less a \$25 handling charge, are available if ACT is informed in writing one week before the workshop date. Details of the cancellation policy are available at www.actcommunity.ca. 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: 204 - 2735 E Hastings St, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5K 1Z8. If you have questions, email info@actcommunity.ca or telephone 604-205-5467, toll-free 1-866-939-5188.

Online Registration: Register when and where is most convenient to you. View and register for events online: www.actcommunity.ca/events

Bursaries: Bursaries for low-income participants and/or those travelling from outside their home regions to an event are available. Call ACT's office for more information or email info@actcommunity.ca with your request prior to registering.

ACT gratefully accepts donations to our bursary fund. See www.actcommunity.ca/bursaries.

Autism Funding: Parents who receive Autism Funding may use 20% of the total for equipment, books, training and travel costs. ACT's live events are considered eligible expenses by the Autism Funding Branch. www.actcommunity.ca/education/funding-invoice-option/

Group Registrations: Those who are not receiving other discounts may receive 20% off if three or more register with one payment. See www.actcommunity.ca/terms-conditions/ for details.

Are you receiving our emails? Please check your email spam folder first, and then telephone if you do not receive a confirmation email. **Are you receiving our emails?** Please telephone if you do not receive a confirmation email within three working days of registering.

Contact ACT at info@actcommunity.ca, 604-205-5467 or toll-free 1-866-939-518.

Visit the ACT website for further details including complete schedules, online registration, location, and special hotel rates:

www.actcommunity.ca/events

Autism & Special Needs Resources for British Columbia

www.actcommunity.ca/bcresources

For the past 13 years ACT has devoted much of our energy into organizing our online resources to be accessible to B.C.'s large autism and special needs community – wherever they live. Families, and the community professionals who support them, use our comprehensive range of evidence-informed information, as well as links to local resources from dentists to horseback riding, 24/7, 365 days a year.

While ACT's expertise is in the area of autism, autism is rarely 'just autism', so we have gathered information, relevant across the lifespan, that can be keyword searched, including information on other special needs and in multiple languages.

ACT no longer receives funding from the B.C. government to maintain these information resources. If you find this information useful, please consider donating or sponsoring ACT at www.actcommunity.ca/support-us



B.C. Community Resources Search

B.C. residents can find local Community Agencies, Recreational Activities, Service Providers, Support Groups, and Educational Training & Employment Opportunities in our database of community resources.



Special Needs Community Events

Calendar of events and workshops in B.C. related to autism and other special needs.



Autism Manual for B.C.

ACT's Guide for Living & Working with Children and Adults with ASD.



Post-Secondary Programs for Professionals

Autism-related programs offered by post-secondary institutions within B.C.



Opportunities for Individuals with ASD – Post-Secondary

Programs and resources available to B.C. post-secondary students with ASD and related disabilities.



New Diagnosis Hub

Developed to help parents put an intervention program in place for their child who has been newly diagnosed with ASD in B.C.



Transition to Adulthood for Individuals with Autism

Resources to help young people with autism prepare for employment or higher education.



More B.C. Resources

School-age Children with Autism