



The Virginia Institute of Autism is proud to welcome

Joanne Gerenser, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Executive Director of the Eden II Programs, New York

The Key to Quality of Life: Effective Communication

A Workshop for Professionals Working with Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Communication has been broadly defined as the process of meaningful interaction among human beings. Deficits in communication skills are consistent with ASD, across all levels of functioning. In fact, it can be argued that autism is a severe disorder of communication. This presentation will review the core issues in ASD that impact the development of effective communication skills as well as the impact that limited communication skills have on all other aspects of functioning. Areas of focus will include early skill development in joint attention as well as the communicative needs of older learners. Implications for intervention, program development and policy will be discussed.

1:00 – 4:30 PM Tuesday, March 24, 2009

University of Virginia Children's Hospital
Kluge Children's Rehabilitation Center

Learner Objectives: Following this workshop, participants will be able to: 1) Identify the core issues in ASD that impact on the development of effective communication skills; 2) Discuss the impact of limited communication skills on other aspects of functioning, particularly social interaction, employment and community access; 3) Discuss the role of effective communication skills on quality of life; 4) Describe key aspects of joint attention and programs to address these skills; 5) Describe strategies for promoting effective communication in older learners.

Presenter Bio: Joanne is the Executive Director of the Eden II Programs in Staten Island, NY. She received her Master's degree in Speech and Hearing at the Ohio State University and her Ph.D. in Speech and Hearing Science at the City University of New York Graduate Center. She is an adjunct Assistant Professor at Brooklyn College as well as Penn State University. Joanne has authored a number of book chapters and articles on autism, is a member of several professional advisory boards and has won numerous awards for her work with people with autism.

ASHA CEUs Provided by the Eden II Programs



Eden II School for Autistic Children is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech language pathology and audiology. This program is being offered for 3.5 CEUs (Intermediate level: Professional area). ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products, or clinical procedures.



For information, registration and directions, visit www.viaschool.org, or call (434) 923-8252