

Nothing Never Happens!

Communication, language, speech and literacy on the autism spectrum

TRAINING SUMMARY:

Communication, language, speech, and literacy have turned out to be broader, more various, and more accessible activities and achievements than many people think. Children and adults on the autism spectrum are always communicating, all the time. Receptive language may come to them far more easily than expressive language. They may be skillful in other kinds of organized communication systems, such as the languages of music, of art, or of animals. More and better pathways to supporting speech development are opening up as we learn more about the sensorimotor challenges of autism; we are also learning that people can speak out eloquently using instruments other than their vocal cords. And literacy turns out to be not only more widespread than we probably assumed, but accessible to all in the form of shared experiences and shared meanings. People with autism are taking the lead in helping all of us to redefine terms and expectations that were once too narrow, and to appreciate that “neurodiversity” can enrich our schools, our communities, and our lives.

TRAINING GOAL:

The goal of this training is for parents, professionals, and community members to enhance their ability to recognize, support, and appreciate the development of communication, language, speech and literacy in the lives of persons on the autism spectrum.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the training are for the participants to:

1. View behavior as communication, be aware that communication is occurring all the time (i.e. that “nothing never happens”), and consider ways to respond respectfully through positive approaches
2. Recognize and support different ways of using language and of speaking
3. Explore ways to foster literacy as a participatory learning experience open to all

METHODS TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES:

Training content can be delivered via webinar incorporating lecture and discussion (app. 1 ½ hours). This training also can be delivered in person in a traditional training or classroom setting incorporating lecture, videos, discussion, and interactive group exercises (2-3 hours). A Training Guide is available in English and in Spanish.