



# 2019-20 Autism Spectrum Disorder Literacy Institute, Tier 1

Popular training  
returns...with national  
speakers! Content can be used  
for ALL learners!

**WHAT:** This statewide institute will be conducted by nationally recognized experts on literacy and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Dr. Christi Carnahan and Dr. Pam Williamson. The institute content will focus on a balanced approach to literacy including instruction in phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing. Each aspect of literacy will be linked to the unique cognitive, social, and communication issues inherent in ASD. Assessment strategies will include an overall estimation of the students' literacy abilities from interactive to independent, which will help teachers determine what additional literacy assessments may be needed to inform instruction. Measures of student outcomes and teacher outcomes will be incorporated into the project, developed by the presenters in conjunction with the CDE autism consultants.

**WHEN:** **October 23<sup>rd</sup> (Wednesday) & 24<sup>th</sup> (Thursday), 2019 8:30–3:30: Days 1 & 2**  
**March 10<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) & 11<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday), 2020 8:30-3:30: Days 3 & 4**

**WHERE:** **Durango Rec Center, 2700 Main Ave, Durango, CO**

## Details

**Target Audience:** This four day institute is designed exclusively for TEAMS (2-4 full time, Colorado certified school team members who work directly with students on the autism spectrum. Teams should include a general education teacher). We have the capacity to accept 75 participants. Due to the limited number of spaces and the need to enroll professionals who are responsible for increasing literacy instruction, this course is not open to paraeducators. All accepted participants will be asked to share implementation information with parents, paraeducators, and administrators. In order to ensure fair representation across the state, the number of teams accepted to attend from each district/AU may be limited.

Additionally, the CDE Autism team will be available during and following the Institute for support on the content.

**Institute Requirements:** Each team member must commit to attend each full day of the training in BOTH October and March. Substitution of team members will not be allowed. If a participant does not honor this attendance requirement, he or she will not receive the CDE 32 hour certificate of attendance. Clock hour certificates will not be prorated to time in the course. *There will be an additional option for participants to have virtual coaching from the presenters for additional clock hours for a virtual project identified during the institute.*

**Costs:** The Exceptional Student Services Unit of the Colorado Department of Education provides the funding for the Autism Spectrum Disorder Literacy Institute's presenters and materials. There are no costs to the participant with the exception of travel, meals and substitutes if needed.

**Meals:** A working lunch will NOT be provided. A break will be given each day for participants to have lunch on their own.

**Lodging:** The cost of lodging and travel is at the responsibility of the participant/district.

## Application for Registration

The application for registration for ASD Literacy Institute can be found here:

[ASD Literacy 2019 20](#)

**Registration will close on October 9, 2019 at 5pm. Each team member must register individually.** There will be space on the registration form where you will be required to include the names of your teammates who are also registering individually. There is a limit to the number of participants who can attend so please register accordingly.

A wait list will be started if the maximum is reached. Individuals will be deleted and then contacted for incomplete registrations.



Dr. Christina R. Carnahan is an associate professor of special education in the School of Education, College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services at the University of Cincinnati. Additionally, Dr. Carnahan is the director of Advancement and Transition Services (<http://cech.uc.edu/education/ats.html>) within the School of Education. Dr. Carnahan's research interests include literacy and communication interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and other complex communication and behavioral support needs, and creating efficient and effective instructional practices across the lifespan. Dr. Carnahan has published in journals such as *Exceptional Children*, *Journal of Special Education*, and *Focus on Autism and Developmental Disabilities*. She is also the co-author of two books including *Quality Literacy Instruction for Learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder* and *Facilitating Evidence Based Practice for Students with ASD: A Classroom Observation Tool for Building Quality Education*.



Dr. Pamela Williamson is an associate professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has experience working with individuals with autism and their teachers in the area of reading intervention and instruction. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles related to reading and autism in journals such as *Exceptional Children*, *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*, *the Journal of Special Education*, *Intervention in School and Clinic*, and *Teaching Exceptional Children*. In addition, she is the coeditor of an award winning textbook, *Quality Literacy Instruction for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, and has educated in-service educators, related service personnel, and families on this topic across the U.S.

Please be in touch if you have questions or cannot attend. Contact Janet Zimmermann or Brooke Carson by email at [zimmermann\\_j@cde.state.co.us](mailto:zimmermann_j@cde.state.co.us) or [Carson\\_B@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Carson_B@cde.state.co.us).