



COLORADO

Department of Education

Accountability, Performance and
Support Division

2014-2015 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Literacy Institute -Level 1

Featuring presenters Christi Carnahan, Ed.D., Associate Professor at the University of Cincinnati; and Pam Williamson, Ph.D., Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina Greensboro

Dates: September 3rd & 4th and December 2nd, 3rd & 4th, 2014: This is a five-day training from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm each day.

Location: The Conference Center at Adams 12, 1500 E. 128th Ave. Thornton CO 80241

Institute Description: This statewide institute is being offered for a second year and will be conducted by nationally recognized experts on literacy and 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. Considerations for using assessments approved by Colorado will be discussed.

Participants will work on a project with their team and the presenters which may be shared with the other participants. The project may consist of video coaching, student action planning or another related task benefitting the participants' student(s). Measures of student outcomes and teacher outcomes will be incorporated into the project, developed by the presenters in conjunction with the CDE ASD specialists.



Dr. Christi Carnahan is a former special education teacher in both elementary and middle school, and is currently an Associate Professor of Special Education at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Carnahan has expertise in students more impacted on the autism spectrum and brings the needed background and specialty of functional communication for students who have no language or limited language. She will address students requiring alternate assessments in Colorado, as well as how to teach literacy to students on the entire continuum.



Dr. Pam Williamson is a former special education teacher in both elementary and middle school, and is currently an Associate Professor of Special Education at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She currently works with both pre service and inservice teachers, preparing them to deliver high quality literacy instruction. Dr. Williamson has expertise with students on the spectrum, with an emphasis on students primarily in general education, and will focus on literacy instruction for these students. She will also address students taking statewide assessments for Colorado.

All individuals, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, have the right to an opportunity to learn to read and write in order to increase and enhance their educational opportunities, vocational success, communicative competence, self-empowerment capabilities, and independence.

Join us for this incredible training opportunity.

Target Audience: This five-day institute is designed exclusively for TEAMS of 2-5 full-time, Colorado-licensed and Colorado school-employed, education professionals (including a general educator) who work directly with students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. 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 creating 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 may be limited to one team per district.

Institute Requirements: Each team member must commit to attending each full day of the training in BOTH September and December. 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 40 clock hour certificate of attendance. Clock hour certificates will not be prorated to time in the course. Additionally, participants will be asked to complete a follow up survey within 3-6 months of the completion of 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, venue, and food and beverages. There are no costs to the participant.

Meals: Coffee/tea will be provided in the early morning only, and a working lunch will be provided each day. Vegetarian and gluten free meals will be accommodated if noted at time of registration. If you have other dietary needs or food allergies, please plan on bringing your meals because we cannot make guarantees of compliance on behalf of the caterer.

Lodging: The cost of lodging and travel is at that responsibility of the participant. If lodging is needed please contact a venue of your choosing. The following hotels are located near the training venue: DoubleTree at (303) 920-800, Hampton Inn (303) 451-7900, or Econo Lodge (303)280-6361.

Registration: The registration link for the training can be found at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2014ASDLiteracyInstituteL1>

Registration will close on **August 15, 2014 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. Confirmations of acceptance will be sent to the participants no later than August 19, 2014. **PLEASE NOTE: Registration does not mean acceptance into the Literacy Institute.**

For More Information: Contact Brooke Carson by email at Carson_B@cde.state.co.us