

Speaker: Alice Shillingsburg, PhD, BCBA-D

Title: Strengthening Gestures: A Critical Component to Building Robust Communication Skills for Autistic Children

Duration: 1 hour

Abstract:

The use of gestures in early child development is highly related to the development of language and communication. Research has repeatedly shown that children who are later diagnosed with autism use fewer gestures to point things out to others (i.e., show and share) and to request things from others (i.e., mand). Recent research has shown that these differences can be seen even before 12 months of age. Given the altogether lower levels of gestures observed in children with autism and the important role they play in learning language and other important social interaction skills.