



Autism iPad Techniques to Bridge Learning Gaps

Instructor/Presenter: Karina Barley – M.Ed.

Length: 15 hours

Number of Professional Development Credits: 1, from the University of North Dakota
Online Course

Introduction

All children have the right to an education and educational resources that enable them to:

- 1/ Learn how to learn.
- 2/ Have their lessons differentiated and individualized.
- 3/ Achieve success in their learning according to their own individual learning style.

Children with autism learn differently and it is the view of many researchers and experts such as Simon Baron-Cohen (2005) and Temple Grandin (2010) that autism is not so much a disease but indeed a difference in learning styles. There is significant research that supports the use of technology for students who are on the **Autism Spectrum** as a tool to assist their learning outcomes.

In the past eight years of working with students with autism I've discovered students who have distinct learning differences, but despite the difference, students can learn. Technology is a huge game changer for these students and it is important that as educators we use them appropriately. When used properly, technology and specifically the iPad can bridge the gaps for the students who have learning differences, and can be utilized to differentiate lessons like never before.

Course Objectives

This course aims:

- To provide awareness on learning styles and strategies for learning for the students on the Autism Spectrum.
- To provide training, education, and strategies for educators who intend to work, or are working with students who have autism.
- To understand how to provide an 'autism friendly' classroom, and provide sensory strategies using technology that are conducive to learning.
- To understand the importance of using technology to assist students who are on the Autism Spectrum.
- To provide a core list of apps to use that caters to the curriculum areas of Language Arts and Math.

Learning Objectives

- To develop awareness of the Autism Spectrum and how this affects student learning.
- To learn about how children with autism learn and to develop awareness of their various learning styles and how each and every child needs unique and individual strategies for successful living.
- To understand the impact of sensory issues for children with autism and how this affects their learning.
- To learn how to use technology to develop strategies for educational programs.
- To learn how to differentiate learning using the iPad for the student on the Autism Spectrum.
- To learn about using various apps to assist students who are on the Autism Spectrum.

Session Topics

1. Autism – Understanding your student, so you can understand how they learn.
2. 21st Century learning and autism.
3. Sensory issues and using technology to promote learning for students.
4. Using the iPad for students on the Spectrum.
5. iPad apps that will bridge the learning gaps.

Methods of Instruction will include:

- Individual lessons.
- Multiple-choice quizzes.

- Assignment.
- Video, iPad Resources, iPad Apps, and web links.

Text and/or Other Materials

Video, screen captures, multiple-choice quizzes, web links and links to apps are provided by the instructor in this online course. There are NO required textbooks.

Assignments

The course includes five multiple-choice quizzes.

This course has one assignment **"Using Technology to Bridge Learning Gaps"**. This assignment is designed for students to use at least one iPad app to create a lesson that will assist their students who are on the Autism Spectrum.

Percentage of Course Credit

Quizzes: 100%

Assignment: Mandatory but ungraded.

OUTLINE OF COURSE

Lesson One - Autism – Understanding your students and how they learn

- Traditional meaning and what it means for students' with autism.
- Experiencing the world for an individual who is on the Autism Spectrum, from the student's perspective.
- What every teacher should know.
- Learning styles and differentiating learning for your Autism Spectrum students.

Lesson Two - 21st Century learning and autism

- Using technology in the 21st Century classroom.
- What does this mean for the student who has autism?

Lesson Three - Sensory issues and using technology to promote learning for your students

- What are sensory issues?
- There are five commonly known senses.
- How do sensory issues affect students' learning?

Lesson Four - Why use the iPad for students on the Autism Spectrum?

- Why are they iPads so effective in the special needs classroom?
- iPads – Why do they work for students with autism?
- Strategies for using the iPad in a variety of classroom scenarios.
- Students' perspective.

Lesson Five - iPad apps that will bridge the learning gaps

- Apps that work across the curriculum.
- Apps that are multi-visual by nature.
- Strategies for using apps for your student with autism.