



iPad Strategies to Engage Students who have Autism

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 each child's individual learning styles.

It is vitally important for teachers to be aware of how 'autism' is for their students. The autism world can be a literal sensory minefield for students and the school environment needs to be designed where it creates a secure space that is conducive to learning. Children who have Autism have different learning styles and as educators we need to be aware of how to cater to the various styles to develop the best strategies to teach them.

The iPad is the perfect technology device to assist students who have autism with sensory issues, visual schedules, visual timers, rewards and generally to create a more harmonious educational environment. Students' on the Autism Spectrum need lots of visual cues and structure, and the iPad can make achieving this easy, transferrable and interchangeable.

Course Objectives

This course aims:

- To provide autism awareness for educators.
- To develop an understanding of creating an educational environment that is 'autism' friendly and conducive to learning.
- To provide training and educational strategies using the iPad in order to create a productive learning environment.
- To have awareness of the various apps that can be used to assist students on the Spectrum in the classroom.

Learning Objectives

- To develop awareness of the Autism Spectrum and how this affects students in the classroom.
- To know how children with autism function, and to understand how each and every child needs unique and individual strategies for successful learning.
- Discover the benefits of using technology to develop strategies for educational and classroom programs.
- Know how to use the iPad to assist with structure, routine and organization for the student with autism.
- To use various apps for assisting and educating students who are on the **Autism Spectrum**.

Session Topics

1. Autism – Understanding your student so you can understand how to create an 'autism' friendly classroom.
2. Using the iPad to create visual schedules, timetables and structure in the classroom.
3. Core apps that you can use to create multi-visual lessons for your students with autism.
4. Apps to use for social skills, communication, and bringing out the best in your student.
5. iPad apps that can make a difference by creating a 'calm' classroom environment.

Methods of Instruction will include:

- Individual lessons.
- Multiple-choice quizzes.
- Assignment.
- Video, iPad resources and iPad apps, web links.

Text and/or Other Materials

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

Assignments

This course has one assignment.

The course includes five multiple-choice quizzes.

Percentage of Course Credit

Quizzes: 100%

Assignment: Mandatory - but ungraded.

OUTLINE OF COURSE**Lesson One - Autism : Understanding your student so you can create an 'autism' friendly classroom**

- What is autism?
- Causes of autism.
- Understanding learning styles.

Lesson Two - Using an iPad to create visual schedules, timetables and structure in the classroom

- Why use iPads in the Classroom?
- What is an 'autism' friendly classroom?
- How to create a balance between allowing technology, and preventing 'obsessions' with particular apps and themes.
- How visual schedules and timetables can help.
- Using color coding, visuals, and multi-sensory tools to engage and motivate.

Lesson Three - Core apps that you can use to create multi visual lessons for your students on the Autism Spectrum

- What iPad apps can be used to assist students who have autism?
- How to create multi-visual and 'moveable' lessons using apps such as Keynote and Grafio.

Lesson Four - iPad apps to use for social skills, communication, and bringing out the best in your student

- Apps to use to create social stories.
- Strategies for using the iPad in a variety of classroom scenarios for students' who have autism.

Lesson Five - iPad apps that can make a difference by creating a 'calm' classroom environment

- Apps for creating calm.
- The importance of preventative breaks.
- Apps to use during preventative breaks.