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Leadership Placement with Autism Society of Maine

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Leadership Placement With Autism Society Of Maine

Autism Society of Maine (ASM) Collaboration Cathy Dionne, Nancy Dyer
Deborah Tardif Bachelors in Human Services Mental Health and LEND Community Trainee



PowerPoint Modules Developed

Leadership Activities

Learning to use disability viewing for different disabilities.

Work With ASM

Researching different topics that effect Autism

Working with a group on doing a PowerPoint presentation

Following up on research that Alan, a previous LEND Trainee, completed.

Module 1

What is Autism?

Developmental Disability that appears before age 7

Crosses all racial, ethnic, and social boundaries

Impacts all individuals differently

Module 2

What can Families with an Autism Diagnosis Expect?

Strategies

Testing

Coping

Module 3

Services for Your Child

Different types of educational interventions

Different medications

Different types of treatment

Module 4

Autism and Strategies for Healthy Living

Medical and physical challenges

Medical interventions and supports

Module 5

Self-Advocacy

Teaching your child self-advocacy

Being an advocate

Why Do The PowerPoint Presentations?

Easier to give caregivers information

Better understanding of Autism

Networking

Better communication



Myths About Autism | Autism Speaks (From Module 1)

1. **Myth:** People with autism don't want friends.

Truth: If someone in your class has autism, they probably struggle with social skills, which may make it difficult to interact with peers. They might seem shy or unfriendly, but that's just because he or she is unable communicate their desire for relationships the same way you do.

2. **Myth:** People with autism can't feel or express any emotion—happy or sad.

Truth: Autism doesn't make an individual unable to feel the emotions you feel, it just makes the person communicate emotions (and perceive your expressions) in different ways.

3. **Myth:** People with autism can't understand the emotions of others.

Truth: Autism often affects an individual's ability to understand unspoken interpersonal communication, so someone with autism might not detect sadness based solely on one's body language or sarcasm in one's tone of voice. But, when emotions are communicated more directly, people with autism are much more likely to feel empathy and compassion for others.

4. **Myth:** People with autism are intellectually disabled.

Truth: Often, autism brings with it just as many exceptional abilities as challenges. Many people with autism have normal to high IQs and some may excel at math, music or another pursuit.



Project Description

Developing PowerPoint presentations for training that teaches professionals, family members and individuals on the spectrum about effective supports for people with ASD.



What's Next?

Present the PowerPoint presentations to caregivers and individuals diagnosed with ASD and get feedback which will bring about adjustments for better presentation results.