Lunch and Learn with VCU-ACE

Alicia Hart

An Introduction to the New VCU-ACE Early Childhood Website and Resources
Housekeeping

- For educational and quality control, we will be recording this zoom session.
- By participating, you are consenting to being recorded.
- Before this session is shared, we will edit to remove identifying information to protect your privacy.
- The Q&A section will be removed and only be shared as an anonymous transcript
Today’s Objectives

• Describe the development of new VCU-ACE early childhood training products and website
• Describe how to use the new VCU-ACE early childhood resources
• Describe future development of VCU-ACE early childhood resources for providers
• Discuss potential future topics for resources
• Questions and answer opportunities
Alicia Hart, Training Associate at VCU-ACE

• Foundations of ASD self-paced course
• The Parent Playbook self-paced course
• How To videos
• COVID-19 videos
• Early Childhood videos
• Project PASS
• Remote employee in Florida
Alicia Hart, Parent of Three: Skye, Ewan, and Vaughn. Ewan was diagnosed with ASD when he was 2 years old.
A lot happening at VCU-ACE!
VCU-ACE is excited to welcome you to our new early childhood website! We have resources for families about raising and supporting young children with ASD. We also have resources for educators and providers as they learn more about ASD and how to use evidence-based practices.

READ MORE
Families Raising Young Children with ASD

1. **Understanding the Diagnosis**
   - When designing training products, the first goal is often just making sure everyone understands the diagnosis.

2. **Understanding Needs**
   - Once the basics are covered, a critical next step focuses on understanding the strengths, abilities, and interests of children with ASD.

3. **Using Different Supports Effectively**
   - Then, and only then, do we switch gears and focus on what supports are available and why they are important.

4. **Encouraging Independence and Self-Advocacy**
   - Once we've covered the what and the why of different evidence-based practices, then we move to knowing when and how to use them.

5. **Helping the Child Reach Their Potential**
   - After all these critical steps are covered, then we move the focus towards encouraging independence and self-advocacy.
COVID-19 and Families

We can all agree that COVID-19 is a historical event. Our first goal was to support resilience in families through the Day in the Life videos.

Because COVID-19 requires more diligence to activities like handwashing, we wanted to make sure families were supported in teaching this skill.

COVID-19 has disrupted many schedules and it's easy for families to feel like their child isn't learning when they aren't able to attend preschool. We wanted to show families how much children learn through daily routines!

Once we covered those three basic needs of families, then we moved toward building short, easy to digest products that help families understand more about ASD and evidence-based practices.
Resources for Families

VCU-ACE is excited to welcome you to our new early childhood website! We have resources for families about raising and supporting young children with ASD. We also have resources for educators and providers as they learn more about ASD and how to use evidence-based practices.
HELP!

My child was just diagnosed with ASD!

How am I supposed to get anything done when I'm working from home?

What can I do RIGHT NOW to make my life easier?

Everything is so chaotic right now!

With all this COVID stuff, I don't think I can handle a single extra thing right now!
Create a Learning Path!

Help!

A Day in the Life: Resilience

A Day in the Life: Maintaining Routines and Schedules

Use What Works: Teaching Routines

Explain It! Routines and Schedules

From Breakfast to Bedtime

Start with the most important daily routines for this family!
My child was just diagnosed with ASD!

With all of *gestures to 2020* I just don't know how I can focus on anything!

I'm not really sure what this means?

What can I expect out of the next few years?

Where do I even start?
Create a Learning Path!

Where do I start?

- Explain It! Presuming Competence
- Explain It! Raising Expectations
- Explain It! Strengths and Interests
- Explain It! Routines and Schedules
- Use What Works: Teaching Routines
- From Breakfast to Bedtime

Start with the most important daily routines for this family!
Project PASS
An early childhood professional development project designed to address professional growth among early childhood educators who are educating young learners with ASD and Developmental Delay.

1. Our first semester is spent reviewing foundational material in best practices, research in ASD intervention, and student goal development.

2. A critical component of the first semester is an intensive self-reflection process that helps participants understand their strengths and needs in 3 areas:
   - Environment
   - Instruction
   - Interaction

3. Participant then work with their VCU-ACE coach to develop an Action Plan that identifies an individualized Learning Path.

4. Participants then begin their learning path and are grouped with other participants who have similar strengths and needs. Coaching also begins at this point.

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SETTING THE STAGE FOR LEARNING

1. Physical Structure
2. Visual Clarity
3. Visual Supports
4. Routines and Schedules
5. Transitioning
6. Providing Choices

INSTRUCTION

1. Task Analysis
2. Prompting
3. Visual Supports
4. Reinforcement
5. Learning Opportunities
6. Systematic Instruction

INTERACTION

1. Social Communication Development
2. Joint Attention
3. Augmentative and Alternative Communication
4. Functional Communication
5. Social Communication Tools
6. Play
Resources for Educators
Visit our websites to learn more!

www.vcuautismcenter.org/earlychildhood

www.vcuautismcenter.org
# Upcoming Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 29, 2020</td>
<td>Workplace Readiness Toolkit</td>
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</tbody>
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Registration Link: [https://vcuautismcenter.org/te/lunchandlearn.cfm](https://vcuautismcenter.org/te/lunchandlearn.cfm)
For questions or more information

Please visit:

www.vcuautismcenter.org/earlychildhood

Or

e-mail: autismcenter@vcu.edu