

How Do We Help These Kids?

Understanding and Addressing the Social-Emotional Needs of Students with High Functioning Autism

(This course fulfills the re-certification requirement of 15 hours of professional development in Special Education)

Audience: Kindergarten through Middle School Educators
Instructor: Shelley Green and Joanne Meehan
Dates & Times: Thursday and Friday, July 14 & 15, 2016 from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM; and Two hours of online work
Location: TEC Professional Learning Center in E. Walpole
Cost: \$275 TEC Members / \$320 Non-TEC Members
Earn: 15 PDPs
Grad. Credit: 1 credit from Worcester State University for an additional \$100,



Course Description: This course, designed for elementary and middle school teachers, will focus on an examination and overview of practical classroom strategies to support the emotional and social functioning of students with High Functioning Autism Syndrome. Specific attention will be given to proactively identifying elements in a behavior cycle, with consideration given to interrupting this cycle at various stages of development in order to de-escalate behavior at the earliest stage. Aspects of cognitive and communicative vulnerabilities of this population will be addressed. User-friendly mindfulness techniques, designed to reduce anxiety and stress, will be introduced in this course. The overall learning goal is to explore ideas & strategies teachers can use to enhance attention, self-regulation, social competence, & students' overall well-being.

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About the Instructors: **Joanne Meehan** is the Program Counselor at the CASE Collaborate Alternative Elementary Program. Students in this program are presented with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges. Ms. Meehan conducts social skills groups, provides individual and parent counseling, crisis management, and trains support staff in behavioral techniques. Ms. Meehan has a special interest in bringing mindfulness-based cognitive therapy into her work to help increase social-emotional resiliency through the enhancement of mindful attention. **Shelley Green** is an Autism Program Specialist with the CASE Collaborative in Concord, Massachusetts. She is responsible for leading social skills groups, consulting to staff, and co-leading a parent group. Previously, Shelley was a special education teacher for 24 years. She has presented at the Social Thinking Providers' Conference in California and at the Autism Society of America's annual conference in Providence.

To register: Go online to http://www.tec-coop.org/PDL_RegForm.html or complete this form and send, **along with a check or PO**, to:

TEC Professional Development, 141 Mansion Drive, Suite 200, E. Walpole, MA 02032

Please register me for "How Do We Help These Kids?" beginning on 7/14/16!

TEC Member District: \$275

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