

**APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS:
FOUNDATIONS AND INNOVATIONS OF EFFECTIVE EDUCATION
FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM AND RELATED DISABILITIES**

Saturday, April 8, 2006

University of Connecticut, Waterbury Campus

Featuring

Andy Bondy, Ph.D.

Pyramid Education Consultants

Kathleen Dyer, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

The River Street Autism Program

With Special Guest Keynote Speaker

Beth Sulzer-Azaroff, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus of the University of Massachusetts

A Collaborative Learning Opportunity Sponsored by

CONNECTICUT FAMILIES FOR EFFECTIVE AUTISM TREATMENT (CT FEAT)

LITCHFIELD COUNTY AUTISM SPECTRUM ASSOCIATION (LACASA)

THE RIVER STREET AUTISM PROGRAM

and

THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT COLLEGE OF CONTINUING STUDIES

*Members of the Northwest Connecticut Partnership
for Autism Spectrum Disorders and Related Disabilities*

Continuing Education Credits Available for Educators and Behavior Analysts

ABOUT THE NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT PARTNERSHIP

The Northwest Connecticut Partnership for Autism Spectrum Disorders and Related Disabilities is a collaboration of state and private agencies, and individuals dedicated to improving educational and support services for people with autism and related disabilities and their families.

The overarching goal of the Northwest Partnership is to develop a seamless program of personnel preparation, from high school through graduate school, for individuals interested in working with persons with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other related developmental disabilities and their families.

Northwest Connecticut Partnership members include: The Education Connection; the University of Connecticut Tri-Campus; the UConn College of Continuing Studies; the A.J. Papanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCE); Northwestern Connecticut Community Technical College (NCCTC); the Connecticut Department of Mental Retardation; the Connecticut State Department of Education; Connecticut Families for Effective Autism Treatment (CT FEAT); Litchfield County Autism Spectrum Association (LACASA); The River Street Autism Program; private service providers; local public schools; and family members.

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8:30 AM Sign-In and Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM Keynote Presentation

FOUNDATIONS AND CURRENT DIRECTIONS OF ABA IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Presented by Beth Sulzer-Azaroff, Ph.D., BCBA

Appearing officially in 1968, applied behavior analysis (ABA) has evolved from a discipline founded on a handful of scientific studies to one of the most widespread, socially important and dependable modes of intervening to enhance human performance. Dr. Beth Sulzer-Azaroff, Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts and organizational consultant, has participated in the field from the beginning. She will share her perspective on the evolution of ABA, including its areas of growth, its strengths and alterations, and why she thinks ABA has become a methodology treasured by so many of us.

10:15 AM

INNOVATIONS IN ABA: THE BASIC CURRICULUM

Presented by Kathleen Dyer, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCBA

The River Street Autism Program provides intensive early intervention for children with autism, using evidenced-based practices for the development of Social Communication Skills through The BASIC Curriculum. Nationally recognized experts in autism, including Kathleen Dyer, Ph.D., Clinical Director of the River Street Autism Program, developed the BASIC Curriculum, using the principles of applied behavior analysis. Dr. Dyer will discuss how to use child-directed procedures to reduce core deficits, including social avoidance behavior, repetitive behavior and communication deficits. These procedures are integrated with other evidenced-based practices for intensive early intervention and result in increases in positive affect, social approach and spontaneous communication with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

LUNCHEON BUFFET IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DR. DYER'S PRESENTATION

12:15 PM

PECS: FACTS AND FICTION

Presented by Andy Bondy, Ph.D.

The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) is an icon-based functional communication system. It was developed almost 20 years ago by Lori Frost, a speech/language pathologist, and Andy Bondy, a behavior analyst, within a statewide public school system serving children with autism. PECS combines theory and strategies from applied behavior analysis with a pragmatic, visual approach to functional communication. It does not require complex or expensive materials, and has become very popular in educational settings and with families of children with autism. Yet there remain misconceptions about PECS. Andy Bondy will discuss PECS and such questions as: If you use PECS, does that mean you are giving up on speech? If you use PECS, are you giving up on ABA?, and Is PECS compatible with a Verbal Behavior Approach? Conference participants will be invited to add additional questions that will be discussed at a panel presentation at the end of the conference.

1:45 – 2:15 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

DESSERT RECEPTION IN HONOR OF OUR SPEAKERS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE

About Our Speakers



Dr. Andy Bondy has over 30 years' experience working with children and adults with autism and related developmental disabilities. He designs educational plans for children with autism that emphasize communicative opportunities across all environments, and teaching social communication in enhanced natural surroundings. ***The Pyramid Approach to Education in Autism***, recently revised with Dr. Beth Sulzer-Azaroff, is a comprehensive educational model with basic teaching strategies derived from applied behavior analysis, including powerful reinforcers, prompting, fading and shaping. The Pyramid approach includes the use of the innovative Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). Dr. Bondy served as the Director of the Statewide Delaware Autistic Program for over a dozen years, where he and his wife, Lori Frost, a speech pathologist, pioneered the development of PECS, a unique augmentative/alternative training package that allows children and adults with autism and other communication deficits to initiate and develop functional communication. PECS has received worldwide recognition for focusing on the social components of communication. It does not require complex or expensive materials, was created with educators, resident care providers and families in mind, and is readily used in a variety of settings. Dr. Bondy is the co-founder of Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc., an internationally based team of specialists from many fields working together to promote the integration of the principles of applied behavior analysis within functional activities.



Dr. Kathleen Dyer is the Clinical Director of the River Street Autism Program at Coltsville, and a nationally recognized expert in autism. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst as well as a certified speech pathologist. She has served children with autism for over 30 years in clinical and university-based research settings. Dr. Dyer has collaborated with pioneers in the field, including Ivar Lovass, Robert Koegel, and Andy Bondy. She has taught in various university settings, and is currently on the faculty at Elms College. Her work has been disseminated in national and international conferences, as well as in over 30 research articles, book chapters, and books in the area of applied behavior analysis. Dr. Dyer provides clinical supervision to children receiving behavioral intervention in over 20 public school districts through the RSAP outreach program, and to staff and students in the RSAP at Coltsville.



Drs. Beth Sulzer-Azaroff, Andy Bondy and Kathleen Dyer conduct training session with RSAP teachers and therapists.

Dr. Beth Sulzer-Azaroff has been engaged in scholarship, research, consulting and teaching in the field of applied behavior analysis since its beginning. In the 1960's, as a doctoral student at the University of Minnesota, she explored ABA methods for working with children on the autism spectrum. On completion of her doctorate, as a faculty member at Southern Illinois University, and later at the University of Massachusetts, she continued this line of inquiry. She has addressed challenges facing students, clients, instructors, care providers, supervisors, managers and executives in the community, schools, factories, offices, health care organizations and elsewhere. Currently she is a Professor Emeritus of the University of Massachusetts, Adjunct Professor at Florida International University and Florida Gulf Coast University, and Director of Quality Assurance for the Pyramid Educational Consultants. She continues to teach and write about behavioral systems for promoting quality Internet-based and classroom teaching of behavior analysts. Dr. Sulzer-Azaroff has authored and co-authored over 15 books and monographs, and more than a hundred published papers. Her books include *Behavior Analysis for Lasting Change* (with Roy Mayer, 1991), *Achieving Educational Excellence Using Behavioral Strategies* (1985), *Applying Behavior Analysis with Children and Youth* (1971), and *Applying Behavior Analysis: A Program for Developing Competence* (1981). She has presented extensively at regional, national and international conferences and has received substantial research and training grant funding. She recently collaborated with Andy Bondy on a revision of ***The Pyramid Approach to Education in Autism***.




Please join us in honoring

Drs. Bondy, Dyer, and Sulzer-Azaroff
for their exceptional contributions
to the education of children with autism
and related disabilities at a dessert reception
immediately following the conference.

Volunteers from CT FEAT and LACASA will sponsor a **Pyramid Book and Educational Products Sale** on the day of the conference featuring ***THE PYRAMID APPROACH TO EDUCATION IN AUTISM*** by Drs. Andy Bondy and Beth Sulzer-Azaroff (2002), and ***THE PICTURE EXCHANGE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (PECS) TRAINING MANUAL, 2ND EDITION*** by Lori Frost and Andy Bondy (2002), and other PECS products, to benefit the Coltsville Research and Training Fund of the River Street Autism Program.

*You can pre-order * these and other books and products with your conference registration form and pick them up at the conference!*

The Pyramid Approach to Education in Autism by Drs. Andy Bondy and Beth Sulzer-Azaroff (2002).....\$ 32.00
The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) Training Manual, 2nd Edition by Lori Frost and Andy Bondy (2002)...\$ 45.00

More information on these and other books and teaching products can be viewed at www.pyramidproducts.com.
 *For pre-orders, please include product name and cost for each item ordered with your conference registration.

Conference and Luncheon Registration Form

Please send completed registration form and your check for \$65 by March 31, 2006 (after March 31, add \$10 for late registration) to:
CT FEAT, Inc. PO Box 370352, West Hartford, CT 06137

Online registration and credit card payments are available by contacting Roberta Daversa at EditorCTFEAT@aol.com.

For purchase order payments, please enclose authorized P.O. with your registration form.

Information will be available at the CT FEAT Information Hotline (860) 571-3888 and on the Web at www.ctfeat.org.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

School District or Organization: _____ CEUs requested _____

I am a: Special Educator _____ Para-professional _____ Regular Classroom Teacher _____ Behavior Analyst _____
Parent _____ Administrator _____ Related Service Personnel (Speech, OT, PT, etc.) _____ Student _____ Other _____

____ Yes, I would like to pre-order a copy of the following to benefit the Coltsville Research and Training Fund of the River Street Autism Program (see previous page):

____ \$32.00 **The Pyramid Approach to Education in Autism** by Andy Bondy, Ph.D. and Beth Sulzer-Azaroff, Ph.D.

____ \$45.00 **The Picture Exchange Communication Systems (PECS) Training Manual, 2nd Edition**, by Lori Frost, MS, CCC-SLP, and Andy Bondy, Ph.D

__ Check enclosed for conference fee \$ _____ and Books and/or PECS products* \$ _____ Total \$ _____

*Online catalog available at pyramidproducts.com

Directions to UConn Waterbury Campus (Downtown)

From I-84 Eastbound (Danbury-Waterbury): Take exit 22; at the bottom of the ramp turn left onto South Main Street. Proceed under the highway. Continue on South Main Street to 4th traffic light (Kingsbury Street) and take a right onto Kingsbury. Take a right at the next traffic light (North Elm Street) and the entrance to the UCONN Parking Facility will be on your right.

From I-84 Westbound (Hartford-Waterbury): Take exit 22 Union Street; at the bottom of the ramp turn left onto Union Street. Go straight. At the 3rd light at St. Mary's Hospital, turn right onto South Elm Street. Go through 3 lights past the blue awning for Family Health Services. The entrance to the UCONN Parking Facility will be on your left.

From Route 8 North (Bridgeport-Waterbury): Take exit 31 onto 84 East. Take first exit #22; at the bottom of the ramp turn left onto South Main Street. Proceed under the highway. Continue on South Main Street to 4th traffic light (Kingsbury Street) and take a right onto Kingsbury. Take a right at the next traffic light (North Elm Street) and the entrance to the UCONN Parking Facility will be on your right.

From Route 8 South (Winsted-Waterbury): Take (left-hand) exit 32, Riverside Street. Take a left at light onto Freight Street. At end take a left onto Meadow Street and your first right at the light onto West Main Street. Follow West Main Street, crossing North Main (the street then becomes East Main Street) and continue past the University (on your left). Take a left at first traffic light onto North Elm Street. The entrance to the UCONN Parking Facility will be on your left.

About Our Organizations

CONNECTICUT FAMILIES FOR EFFECTIVE AUTISM TREATMENT CT FEAT, INC. is a non-profit organization, providing information and support to the families of children with autism spectrum disorders throughout Connecticut. Resources include the CT FEAT Information Telephone Hotline, free newsletters for families and professionals, and more. Details are available at the information-packed CT FEAT Web site, www.ctfeat.org, or by calling the Information Hotline at 860-571-3888.

LITCHFIELD COUNTY AUTISM SPECTRUM ASSOCIATION, INC. LACASA is a non-profit partnership that was established in 2001 by a group of dedicated families and professionals. Its members have a keen interest in ensuring that individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families have local access to quality support and services. More information is available at the LACASA Web site, uhaweb.hartford.edu/LACASA.

THE RIVER STREET AUTISM PROGRAM The RSAP (www.crec.org/ss/divisionunits/rspschool) provides intensive year-round services for children with autism using the principles of applied behavior analysis through a full day, preschool program at the Coltsville School in Hartford, and in homes and public school programs throughout Connecticut.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT COLLEGE OF CONTINUING STUDIES The UCONN College of Continuing Studies (www.continuingstudies.uconn) offers online and on-campus degree and certification programs tailored to returning students. Courses include autism and behavior-specific offerings, including courses in applied behavior analysis.