



# Training Program

Training Descriptions for Parents and Professionals

In 38 children in Maryland are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Undoubtedly, you are interacting with someone with Autism whether in your home, your neighborhood, your school or your workplace. Understanding ASD is one way to improve your interactions with someone on the spectrum. Our presentation will provide a practical and experiential opportunity for you to learn strategies and tips for success.



Pathfinders for Autism has presented to a variety of industries:

- Parents and other caregivers
- Foster parents
- School personnel
- Students, kindergarten to college
- College professors
- Hospital/ER personnel
- Medical students
- Law enforcement
- Corrections officers
- State's attorneys/public defenders
- Fire/EMS
- CPS/APS
- Social workers
- Restaurant staff
- Hotel staff
- Public library staff
- Recreational instructors

### Purpose of this Training

Pathfinders for Autism teaches ways to interact more effectively with children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder. We encourage individuals with ASD and their families to participate in community activities, so it is important to create awareness and understanding so that the community is better prepared to serve and support this growing segment of our society.

### Training Objectives

- Recognize characteristics of Autism
- Discuss actions that can easily be misinterpreted as bad behavior
- Learn strategies for communication/ language processing
- Understand the impact of sensory issues
- Experience characteristics through simulation exercises

### Our Curriculum and Training Team

Each training presentation is specifically tailored for your industry and our curriculum is constantly being reviewed and updated by a team of Pathfinders' staff, parents, relevant professionals and individuals with ASD.



*"Pathfinders for Autism recently presented a training to our staff. I consider this some of the best training in which I have participated. Many on my staff also gave me positive feedback comments. I wanted to thank you as any staff that helped compile the presentation. It was excellent!" Michael R. Potter, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture, City of Gaithersburg*

*"The staff presented in a warm and welcoming manner which felt less like a lecture and more like a conversation. It proved a wonderful way to maintain the attention of the audience. They made the training more meaningful by sharing personal experiences as parents of children with ASD. This provided a human connection to the information." Janet Palmer, Advocates for Success*

*"Without the hands-on training you provided to our church volunteers, we would not have been on the right track to ensure participants feel welcome and comfortable in this religious environment." St. John Lutheran Church, Linthicum*

**For more information on first responder trainings, contact:**  
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