



MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

## Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders

25<sup>th</sup> July & 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 (2 morning sessions of 4 hours each)

**Course registration fee: €75**

**Dates: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July & Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August**

**Time: 09.00a.m. to 1.00p.m.**

**Venue: University Residence, Robert Mifsud Bonnici Street, Lija (ample parking space available)**

### **OBJECTIVES AND AIMS**

This professional development course enables participants to better understand what challenges may arise when working with pupils with autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and how they can be best approached. It also explains how to support pupils with ASD in the mainstream classroom.

A workshop gives participants the opportunity to practice assessing and understanding any problem behaviours exhibited by ASD students and offers effective strategies to change and possibly eliminate the behaviour.

The course aims at:

- ❖ Gaining a good understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders
- ❖ Learning about research based interventions
- ❖ Learning about appropriate strategies and treatment
- ❖ Informed and improved practices
- ❖ Identifying and meeting the needs of students with ASD

### **COURSE PROGRAMME**

#### **Topics for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

- 1 Unravelling the puzzle – something is not quite right!!
- 2 What is autistic spectrum disorder?
- 3 Development stages in children
- 4 Casual factors

#### **Topics for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August**

- a) Research based interventions:-
  - Early intervention
  - ABA (applied behavior analysis)
  - PECS (picture exchange system)
  - TEACCH
  - Pivotal Response Training
- b) Teaching social skills
- c) Dealing with challenging behavior – workshop

### **COURSE CO-ORDINATOR AND LECTURER**

Claudette Attard has worked for several years at The Eden Foundation (now INSPIRE), is a pool instructor of children with physical and cognitive impairments and practices early intervention strategies with children with learning disabilities. She lectures at the Student Services Department in Hamrun, and was a guest speaker at the 'Thematic Sessions on Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties' held in Malta last November. Besides she has studied at the University of Manchester, where she has successfully completed her Master's Degree in Profound and Complex Learning Disabilities. She is now broadening her studies in Inclusion at Queen's University in Belfast. Ms Attard is herself the parent of a young child with multiple disabilities.

### **COURSE REGISTRATION FEE AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Cheques (registration fee €75) are to be made payable to Malta University Consulting Ltd**

For further information kindly contact: Malta University Consulting Ltd, Robert Mifsud Bonnici Street, Lija.

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