

Therapist's Guide to Conference



Why should a therapist attend the conference?

The Minnesota Autism Conference is a great place for therapists to stay up to date on the latest best practices and research for autism. Not only will you walk away with practical strategies that will help you with everything from behaviors to social skills, you also will earn CE credits and connect with colleagues. If you don't find information on everything you're looking for at the conference, our AuSM Shop has a hand-selected collection of books and other resources about every age, topic, and concern related to autism. If you're looking for help with a particular topic, visit the bookstore and we will help you find the right resource. Use this guide to help you find the sessions and resources tailored for therapists at the event.

Obtain CEUs

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available from the Minnesota Board of Psychology, the Minnesota Board of Social Work, the Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health & Therapy, the Minnesota Board of School Administrators, and the Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy for conference sessions. If you are applying for CEUs through a different board, a Certificate of Attendance will be available in your participant folder to submit to your board.

Recommended Sessions for Therapists

Wednesday, April 16, 12:30-4:30 p.m. Foundational Conference Workshop

Conference Keynote Presentations

- Thursday, April 17, 8-9:30 a.m.
Storytelling as Advocacy: Why Telling Our Stories Matters presented by Tiffany Hammond
- Thursday, April 17, 2:30-4 p.m.
Using Emotion (Co)Regulation to Stay Upright When You Feel Like Falling Apart presented by Anne Gearity
- Friday, April 18, 8-9:30 a.m.
Reading Between the Lines: Ableism in Literacy Education presented by Mash Makhlyagina

Conference Breakout Sessions

Thursday, April 17

10-11 a.m.

- Decreasing the Stigma – Talking to Children about Neurodivergence presented by Melissa Fischer
- Working with Culturally Diverse Families presented by Ellie Wilson and Sarah Mohamed
- Burnout Busters: Navigating Neurodivergent Burnout with Style presented by Tiffany Schroeer, Revel Weber, and Chelsey Hendrickx*

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

- The Quiet Revolution: Autism Specific Services in Early Intervention Systems presented by Katie Scott
- Navigating the Intersection of ADHD and Autism presented by Gerard Balan

1:15-2:15 p.m.

- Strategies for Supporting Independence in Daily Living presented by Lauren Gunhus and Nicole Ogren
- Choosing Goals and Interventions for Autistic Individuals presented by Megan Helmen*
- Autism: Beyond the Male Phenotype presented by Glenis Benson

Conference Breakout Sessions (cont.)

Friday, April 19

10-11 a.m.

- Communicating With Scripts: An Introduction to Gestalt Language Processing presented by Emily Zimmer
- Games as a Play-Based Therapy Tool for Clinicians and Families presented by Megan Armstrong
- Understanding and Addressing Barriers to Accessing Early Support for Young Autistic Children and their Families in Minnesota presented by Christine Friendshuh, Sarah Mohamed, Adele Dimian, and Jessica Simacek

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

- The Importance of Integrated Employment and the Power of Mentorship presented by Olivia Lape*
- Empathy in Crisis Intervention: Harm Reduction and Intersectional Approaches for Autistic People presented by Elizabeth Duffy, Santanna Ficken, Nikki Huelsman, and Aster Gallus

1:15-2:15 p.m.

- Accounting for Advocacy presented by Jeremy Goldberg
- Beyond the Basics: Further Education in Autistic Sexuality presented by Mason Esposito
- Proprioception and Sensory-based Strategies for Improved Emotional Regulation using a Family-Centered Approach presented by Oana Zayic and Alyssa Norenberg*

2:30-3:30 p.m.

- Pathological Demand Avoidance: Understanding, Accepting, and Supporting PDAers presented by Joe Falkner*
- Heading into Adulthood presented by Sara Swan
- Addressing Ableism and Autistic Needs Through Trauma-Informed FBAs and BIPs presented by Elizabeth Duffy, Santanna Ficken, Nikki Huelsman, Bryden Carlson-Giving, and Kathryn O'Brien

*Session included in the virtual package

What's Next

In addition to the annual state autism conference, AuSM offers resources and services throughout the year that can be beneficial to therapists working with clients on the spectrum. The AuSM Counseling team is available to consult with therapists, group home staff, community organizations, employers, day training and habilitation groups, and other direct support professionals who work with individuals with autism to help with general training or to offer strategies related to a specific issue or topic. In addition, we have customized trainings available. To learn more about autism, join us for ASD Direct Support Certification, a 15-hour intensive course that gives practical solutions for working with people on the spectrum. Make sure you stay connected to AuSM with our twice monthly e-newsletter, AuSM Connections. You can find the sign up at the bottom of any page on AuSM's website.



Visit www.ausm.org for details.