



PHIL BREDESEN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
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TIMOTHY K. WEBB, Ed.D.
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Special Education Supervisors
FROM: Linda Copas, TN DOE
SUBJECT: Communication and Autism Workshop
DATE: Dec. 18, 2009

The Department of Education, Division of Special Education, in collaboration with TRIAD of Vanderbilt University, would like to announce a new workshop titled "The Communication Maze: Helping Students with ASD Navigate Communication".

Communication is a complex maze of verbal and nonverbal messages. Deficits in the area of communication are one of the three features characterizing autism spectrum disorders. However, communication skills are essential components of educational performance and curriculum standards direct educators to address this area for all students.

This no cost two-day workshop is **designed primarily for school-based speech language pathologists** responsible for assessment, direct service, and consultative services to students with ASD. This course is offered for 1.0 ASHA CEUs (intermediate level; professional area). It is also relevant to other professionals who focus on communication skills of students with ASD.

Participants will learn how:

- The characteristics of ASD impact communication
- To assess the core communication deficits
- To use assessment information to develop functional and meaningful communication goals
- To integrate effective methodologies to address communication goals
- To embed strategies to improve communication throughout the day
- To collaborate with other professionals who address communication goals

Thirty (30) participants will be chosen for this workshop in each regional location. Tennessee public school employees will be given priority. To apply, fill out the attached application and fax it to Linda Copas. Please do not assume you are accepted until you are notified.

**2010 Focused Workshop
“The Communication Maze”**

**Fax to Linda Copas
615.532.9412**

Name _____

Position _____

School _____ **System** _____

E-mail address: (required) _____

Contact phone number (include area code) _____

Please circle the session you wish to attend:

Feb. 16-17, 2010

West TN

Feb. 23-24, 2010

Middle TN

March 2-3, 2010

East TN

**Deadline for application is
seven days before desired
session.**

Questions?

Contact Linda Copas at 615.741.7790 (phone) or
Linda.copas@tn.gov (e-mail)



The Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language

pathology and audiology. **See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area.** ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.