

	Title	Description	Presenter(s)	Suggested Audience*
10	<p>Comic Strip Conversations</p>	<p>Comic Strip Conversations are a popular strategy used with children, adolescents, and adults with autism, but it's rare for them to be the focus of an entire presentation. A Comic Strip Conversation (CSC) is an illustrated interaction that supports communication with assumption-free questions and simple stick-figure drawings. Color plays a structured role, with every Comic Strip Conversation identifying the setting and what people say, do, and think. Materials are simple; all that is needed is a set of fine line markers or colored pencils and a drawing surface. Applicable for any parent or professional new to the approach or proficient, this presentation will cover the rationale and “mechanics” of how to conduct a Comic Strip Conversation with unprecedented detail. Participants will leave with a flexible new strategy - and the skill to use it - at home, school, clinic, or in the community.</p> <p><u>Learner Objectives:</u></p> <p>Participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the elements of a CSC 2. Illustrate thought-based terms like “guess” and “decide” with visually-based text and accompanying drawings 3. Explain the rules that govern the use of color in a CSC 	<p>Carol Gray began her career as a teacher for four children with autism at Jenison Public Schools, in Jenison, Michigan. Currently, she works as a consultant to children, adolescents, and adults with autism, providing support via workshops and presentations, information, referral, resources, and direct services for individuals with autism, their families, and professionals who work on their behalf. Carol is best known for the development of Social Stories, a well-respected evidence-based practice used worldwide with people with autism of all ages. She is an internationally sought-after keynote and seminar speaker and has completed over 1,200 presentations.</p> <p>Carol is also the founder of a very effective social philosophy that 1) ‘abandons all assumptions’, 2) regards both the typical and autism perspective as ‘equally valid’, and 3) recognizes the ‘social impairment in autism’ as shared (noting the well-intentioned but nonetheless misguided mistakes of parents and professionals). She has completed ground-breaking work on some of the toughest topics in autism by reviewing the research, outlining new theories, and developing practical instructional strategies, most notably Gray’s Guide to Bullying (2004) and Gray’s Guide to Loss, Learning, and Students with ASD (2003). Carol serves on many advisory boards, including the active and working Advisory Board on Disabilities for Delta Air Lines, where she represents passengers with autism.</p> <p>Carol has received many awards for her work, including Social Thinking’s Lifetime Achievement Award (San Francisco, 2015); Learning Spring School’s Spectrum Award for her global efforts in education and improving the lives of people with autism (New York City, 2012), the Autism</p>	<p>Suggested for but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families/Parents/Caregiver • Educators • Service Providers • Social Workers • Counselors • Psychologists

*** Each description above includes information about the target audience. We asked the presenters to share this information in order to help in your decision making. However, EVERY session is open to EVERYONE! Honestly Autism Day is about changing perspectives and learning from one another. Please don't feel limited!**

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Formulate three assumption-free questions 5. Discuss why parents and professionals maintain an emotionally neutral and supportive attitude throughout every CSC 6. Conduct a CSC with someone in their care 	<p>Society of America Education Book of the Year, The New Social Story Book: Revised and Expanded 10th Anniversary Edition (2009), and the Barbara Lipinski Award (Lansing, Michigan, 2005) for her international contribution to the education and welfare of people with autism.</p> <p>PUBLICATIONS Carol has written several articles and chapters in addition to the resources that are listed below. Many of them are available as a free download in The Morning News/Jenison Autism Journal section of her website CarolGraySocialStories.com.</p> <p><i>Disclosures: The New Social Story Book: Book titles: Revised and Expanded 15th Anniversary Edition, The Last Bedtime Story, Comic Strip Conversations, My Social Story Book. Online Membership: Carol's Club</i></p>	
11	<p>Stretch Your Child's Passions Using Sensory Activities</p>	<p>Hands-on, body-on activities, based on the child's narrow interests, emphasize social relationships, body awareness, balance, rhythm and timing, visual-spatial and auditory-language processing, motor planning, and calming down. Using simple equipment such as paper plates, cardboard tubes, sticks, hoops, and bicycle inner tubes, participants will review old-fashioned, three-dimensional ways to build on kids' passions and get them moving and learning.</p> <p>Learner Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regard children's special passions from the perspective of their 	<p>Carol Stock Kranowitz, M.A. During her 25-five year career as an early education teacher, Carol Stock Kranowitz introduced Sensory Processing Disorder to parents and educators around the world through her book, "The Out-of-Sync Child." Carol speaks nationally and internationally about SPD's effect on children's learning and behavior and how families, teachers, therapists and other professionals can support children as they grow — at home, at school, and out and about. A graduate of Barnard College, Carol earned her master's degree in Education and Human Development from The George Washington University. She lives in Maryland, is a classical cellist, and dotes on five grandchildren.</p> <p><i>Disclosures: Royalties for my books in the "Sync" series</i></p>	<p>Suggested for but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educators • Families/Parents/Caregiver • Related Service Providers (Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech Therapists...) • Social Workers, Counselors, Psychologists • School Administrators • Self-Advocates <p>Newly Diagnosed Early Childhood Childhood Adolescence/Teen</p>

*** Each description above includes information about the target audience. We asked the presenters to share this information in order to help in your decision making. However, EVERY session is open to EVERYONE! Honestly Autism Day is about changing perspectives and learning from one another. Please don't feel limited!**

		<p>value as foundations for joyful learning and creativity.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Learn “In-Sync” activities at home, school, or clinic that will help children develop and enhance sensory-motor skills and social interactions. Stretch children’s play themes using sensory activities. 		<p>Level: Basic</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>ASK THE AUTISTIC WEREWOLF: Autism Insight (Repeat)</p>	<p>My presentation will briefly introduce myself as a person living on the autism spectrum. I will share briefly all accomplishments have made me a successful autistic man.</p> <p>I have lived on the autism spectrum for the past 59 years. I have made many mistakes growing in autistic wisdom as a result. My presentation will allow audience members to ask any question they want. Audiences can access my autism wisdom in ways that enhance their professional, parental or other roles in the lives of autistic children, adolescents and adults.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> LEARN from unconventional Autistic Werewolf themed insights, experiences and life objectives of a successful man living on autism's spectrum for 59 years. KNOW how to better understand, respond to and mitigate autistic meltdowns while using the triggers to teach more effective autism self-management skills. 	<p>Wolf F. Dunaway Today I am a very successful autistic man who started life 59 years ago as a troubled very antisocial autistic child (werewolf like). I made many mistakes on my unique path to success. I'm giving audiences the opportunity to ask me questions in hope, they will avoid the many painful pitfalls I encountered growing up autistic, angry, violent and alone. After 41 years in an autistic wilderness I climbed back into the civilized world of college, work, home ownership and more. Today I am an IT Specialist with the Federal Government earning a 6 figure income. I'm not bragging I share this in hopes autistic people don't limit their possibilities!</p>	<p>For all audiences</p>

*** Each description above includes information about the target audience. We asked the presenters to share this information in order to help in your decision making. However, EVERY session is open to EVERYONE! Honestly Autism Day is about changing perspectives and learning from one another. Please don't feel limited!**

		3. KNOW how to better help people on autism's spectrum, meet challenges of adulthood, like independent living, job skills, college, DORS and MUCH MORE!		
13	<p>Autistic Sensory Spectrum Life in an Overstimulating World</p> <p>(Repeat)</p>	<p>This presentation is about autistic sensory differences, stimming, and sensory regulation.</p> <p>Autistic sensory differences can vary greatly from one autistic individual to the next. What bothers one autistic person may be pleasurable to the next. In this presentation I share some of my own tips and tricks for navigating a world that isn't always sensory friendly.</p> <p>Learner Objectives: Learn about sensory processing differences and regulation, including auditory processing differences from an autistic perspective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I Need to Move - Stimming and movement for sensory regulation – the importance of allowing natural autistic movement • My Favorite Sensory Life Hacks - Tools and tips for managing & avoiding sensory overstimulation, from a sensory sensitive autistic adult • Harmful Behaviors – re-directing destructive behaviors. Some stims and behaviors are bad for our health. How can we work to re-direct? 	<p>Christa Holmans - The Neurodivergent Rebel</p> <p>Neurodivergent Rebel - Rebelling against a culture that values assimilation over individuality.</p> <p>Christa Holmans enjoys pursuing her diverse passions. She has embodied many of these over the years. From aerial acrobatics & circus arts to dog training & business consulting, just to name a few.</p> <p>Founder of Neurodivergent Consulting and the internationally recognized Neurodivergent Rebel blog.</p> <p>She can be found advocating on Twitter as @NeuroRebel, destroying stigma & spreading positivity.</p> <p>Christa currently enjoys living in an RV full time with her best friend & partner in crime, David (along with 4 dogs), in a 40 foot long diesel pusher bus.</p>	<p><i>For all audiences</i></p>
14	<p>Finding Your Place of Belonging (Part 2)</p>	<p>Social skills expert and autistic self-advocate Daniel Wendler shares his</p>	<p>Daniel Wendler M.A. never fit in, no matter how hard he tried. His quirky personality and awkward behavior meant</p>	<p>Suggested for but not limited to:</p>

*** Each description above includes information about the target audience. We asked the presenters to share this information in order to help in your decision making. However, EVERY session is open to EVERYONE! Honestly Autism Day is about changing perspectives and learning from one another. Please don't feel limited!**

		<p>principles for finding genuine belonging. You'll learn effective strategies for developing social skills, finding the motivation to go outside your comfort zone, and building relationships that can last a lifetime. And you'll be equipped to deepen connections in your own life and help others find their place of belonging.</p> <p>Learner Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate how autistic individuals can effectively practice and develop social skills over time. 2. Apply effective strategies for making genuine friendships as a person with autism. 3. Understand the principles for having a fulfilling, healthy romantic relationship as a person on the spectrum. 	<p>that his childhood was full of rejection, bullying, and loneliness. But Daniel never stopped yearning for a place to belong, and when he was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome he began to teach himself social skills from the ground up, the way you would learn a foreign language.</p> <p>When he used these skills to reach out to other “outsiders,” Daniel discovered that he was not alone in his search for connection, and that the best way to find a place to belong was to create that place for someone else.</p> <p>Today, he works to help others make that same discovery. He is the author of the website ImproveYourSocialSkills.com, two books on social skills ("Improve Your Social Skills" and "Level Up Your Social Life" both available on Amazon), a two time TEDx speaker, and a graduate student in his final year of a doctorate in clinical psychology. Daniel is thrilled to be a part of Honestly Autism Day and looks forward to sharing a simple truth with everyone: It's never too late to find a place to belong, and all of us have the power to change a life simply by being a friend.</p> <p><i>Disclosure: I receive royalties for any purchases of my books or purchases of content from ImproveYourSocialSkills.com</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educators • Families/Parents/Caregiver • Related Service Providers (Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech Therapists...) • Social Workers, Counselors, Psychologists • School Administrators • Self-Advocates <p>Age Group(s) Addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childhood • Adolescence/Teen • Adulthood <p><i>My presentation addresses learners who require minimal supports.</i></p>
15	<p>Yoga Class: Keeping the Senses in Mind</p>	<p>This will be a yoga class with a special emphasis on sensory regulation leaving the participant feeling balanced, regulated and ready for the rest of their day. The class will include a handout of what was included so students will be able to take it home with them and continue with a personal practice on their own.</p>	<p>Sarah Gigante, PT, DPT, ERYT-200 Vito Gigante, MS, OTR/L, RYT-200</p> <p>Vito Gigante has been an occupational therapist since 2004, working with children and their families in their homes and in the school system (both public and private). He has found that using yoga with children helps them to self-regulate, improving their ability to be a positive member of their classroom and at home. Vito runs weekly parent and child yoga classes for children from 18 months to 3 years as part of the Early Intervention Program in Erie County. His classes have been featured on 2 separate</p>	<p><i>For all audiences</i></p>

*** Each description above includes information about the target audience. We asked the presenters to share this information in order to help in your decision making. However, EVERY session is open to EVERYONE! Honestly Autism Day is about changing perspectives and learning from one another. Please don't feel limited!**

news programs in Buffalo, NY. He is the father of two amazing little girls. Vito, along with his wife Sarah are co-founders of Flowering Light Yoga, LLC, a Buffalo based company that uses yoga as a therapeutic tool both in individual and group sessions. They hope to make therapeutic yoga a mandated service on children's individual education plans (IEPs) to improve access to this wonderful therapy. Vito and his wife Sarah are Lead Trainers for Radiant Child Yoga, teaching adults to teach yoga to children of all abilities and to improve their own lives in the process.

Website: www.floweringlightyoga.com

Email: vgigante88@gmail.com

Sarah Gigante a Doctor of pediatric Physical Therapy and a registered yoga alliance teacher. For 15 years she has worked with children and their families in the hospital setting, at home and in schools. She has been using yoga one on one and in group settings with children she treats and has seen wonderful progress with their motor control, self-calming and self-confidence. Dr. Gigante has provided pediatric Physical Therapy and yoga for hundreds of children over the course of her career. She also teaches continuing education workshops for therapists and special education teachers on pediatric yoga and mindfulness in the classroom for general education and special education teachers and self-care for caregivers for family members of those living with mental illness. She is the mother of two wonderful girls and human companion to two wonderful dogs. Dr. Gigante, along with her husband Vito, are co-founders of Flowering Light Yoga, LLC, a Buffalo, NY based company that uses yoga as a therapeutic tool both in individual and group sessions. They hope to make therapeutic yoga a mandated service on children's individual education plans (IEPs) to improve access to this wonderful therapy. Sarah and her husband Vito are Lead Trainers for Radiant Child Yoga, teaching

*** Each description above includes information about the target audience. We asked the presenters to share this information in order to help in your decision making. However, EVERY session is open to EVERYONE! Honestly Autism Day is about changing perspectives and learning from one another. Please don't feel limited!**

			<p>adults to teach yoga to children of all abilities and to improve their own lives in the process. Website: www.floweringlightyoga.com Email: floweringlightyoga@gmail.com</p>	
<p>16</p>	<p>Tips and Tricks for Dealing with Anxiety</p>	<p>"Tips and Tricks for Dealing with Anxiety" aims to help us learn how to overcome the constant struggle of our anxiety pushing us in the direction of upset or avoidance. Instead, we want to follow a more logical path that allows us to reach our goals. Participants will learn how our thoughts, body sensations, and emotions – namely anxiety, are connected and guide our actions; learn to recognize anxiety and patterns of responding; how to improve our acceptance of anxiety provoking situations; and, how to shift our thoughts, feelings and actions through the use of skills and strategies including mindfulness, reducing symptoms of anxiety in our body, thought identification, focusing on our goals, and utilizing distraction and relaxation. At the end of this seminar, participants will leave with strategies that they can immediately begin using to better manage anxiety.</p> <p>Learner Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To have a basic understanding of the biological underpinnings of anxiety. 2. To learn preventive strategies to reduce the likelihood or severity of anxiety. 	<p>Tana Hope, Ph.D. is the Director of Clinical Services at the Aliceanna location for the Child and Family Therapy Clinic in the Behavioral Psychology Department of the Kennedy Krieger Institute. Additionally, she holds a faculty appointment as an Instructor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University’s Behavioral Biology Division; and, is an adjunct professor in the Counseling and Human Services program at the Johns Hopkins University’s School of Education. As a clinical psychologist, Dr. Hope utilizes empirically-supported treatments including Cognitive-Behavior Therapy (CBT) and Dialectical-Behavior Therapy (DBT), both within the context of the family system; and Comprehensive Behavioral Intervention for Tics (CBIT). Her primary clinical interests include assisting individuals diagnosed with anxiety, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), depression, high functioning autism spectrum disorder, Tourette Syndrome; and, working with individuals who have experienced a traumatic event, have a school-based learning disorder, have challenges navigating social interactions; and, working with families to improve communication and functioning. Dr. Hope also has a specific interest in public awareness of mental health issues. She actively participates in the Behavioral Psychology Department’s Community Outreach Program providing seminars and educational lectures to schools, and special area interest groups.</p> <p><i>Disclosure: Dr. Hope is a psychologist and conducts clinical services at an outpatient clinic, the Child and Family Therapy Clinic, at the Kennedy Krieger Institute.</i></p>	<p>Suggested for but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educators • Families/Parents/Caregiver • Related Service Providers (Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech Therapists...) • Social Workers, Counselors, Psychologists • School Administrators • Self-Advocates <p><i>My presentation addresses learners who require minimal supports.</i></p> <p>Level: Intermediate</p>

*** Each description above includes information about the target audience. We asked the presenters to share this information in order to help in your decision making. However, EVERY session is open to EVERYONE! Honestly Autism Day is about changing perspectives and learning from one another. Please don't feel limited!**

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To better match the selection of skills to develop and coping strategies to try to your child's or teen's level of functioning. 4. To gain knowledge of a wide range of skills and coping strategies that can assist an individual who struggles with anxiety. 		
17	<p>Using Virtual Reality Technology in the Everyday Teaching and Learning of Children with Autism</p>	<p>Today's classrooms, homes, and communities are becoming more technology-rich, but many regard virtual reality (VR) as being costly or time consuming to learn and use. However, no special skills are needed to access today's VR - educators, families, and service providers who can access a smartphone application now have access to these tools! Many VR technologies have quickly become more portable, simpler, and accessible at little to no cost. Many educators are not using these technologies with their students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, but the research tells us that they should be. Growing empirical evidence indicates that VR technologies can support individuals with ASD in developing social skills by providing experiences that may be otherwise impossible in the natural environment. In this hands-on session we will explore practical VR applications that can be used in the classroom, home, or community-based setting to support the teaching and learning of individuals with ASD. While demonstrations of the technology will be available, participants</p>	<p>Andrea Parrish is an Assistant Professor and the Graduate Program Director in the Department of Special Education at Towson University. Dr. Parrish holds degrees in special education; a certificate in educational administration; and a doctoral degree in instructional technology. Prior to joining TU, Dr. Parrish served as a special educator and central office administrator in the K-12 school system. Dr. Parrish recently completed and published a national research study on competencies needed to teach effectively in one-to-one learning environments. She regularly presents at local, national, and international conferences and conducts research on technology integration; assistive technology; and innovative teaching approaches that support diverse groups of learners.</p>	<p>Suggested for but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educators • Families/Parents/Caregiver • Related Service Providers (Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech Therapists...) • Social Workers, Counselors, Psychologists <p>Childhood Adolescence/Teen Transition</p> <p>Level: Intermediate</p>

*** Each description above includes information about the target audience. We asked the presenters to share this information in order to help in your decision making. However, EVERY session is open to EVERYONE! Honestly Autism Day is about changing perspectives and learning from one another. Please don't feel limited!**

are encouraged to bring a smartphone or tablet of their choice.

Learner Objectives:

1. Define virtual reality (VR) technology and its affordances in the teaching and learning of individuals with ASD.
2. Discuss and utilize VR applications that can be utilized in the classroom, home, and community.
3. Analyze how various VR applications can be integrated to support the learning and generalization of individuals with ASD.

*** Each description above includes information about the target audience. We asked the presenters to share this information in order to help in your decision making. However, EVERY session is open to EVERYONE! Honestly Autism Day is about changing perspectives and learning from one another. Please don't feel limited!**