

Son-Rise Professional Training

Sheffield, MA

TRAINING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Since 1983, *The Son-Rise Program* at The Autism Treatment Center of America has provided innovative training programs for parents and professionals caring for children and adults challenged by Autism, Autism Spectrum Disorders, PDD and other developmental challenges. *The Son-Rise Program* teaches a specific yet comprehensive system of treatment and educational tools designed to help families and caregivers enable their children to improve dramatically in all areas of learning, development, communication and skill acquisition. It offers parents and professionals highly effective educational techniques, strategies and principles for designing, implementing and maintaining a stimulating, high-energy, one-on-one home based program.

Beginning June 15, 2012 The Autism Treatment Center of America will conduct a Son-Rise Program onsite staff training course for those seeking a professional career using *The Son-Rise Program* at the Autism Treatment Center of America in Sheffield, Ma. This training course is designed to help achieve a mastery of Son-Rise Program techniques combined with a firm grounding in the attitude of love and acceptance which is fundamental to this unique approach.

COURSE CONTENT AND DESIGN

It has been our experience that the most powerful way to train professionals is to use *The Son-Rise Program* through a practical approach in which we provide students with the experience of working directly (one-on-one) with children of varying ages and diagnoses. The Autism Treatment Center of America maintains a commitment to excellence for its staff with a strong emphasis on personal and professional growth.

Students of our onsite Professional Training Program will receive individualized and specific guidance from senior staff trainers of *The Son-Rise Program* for the duration of the training program. Since its inception in 1974, *The Son-Rise Program* has recognized that facilitating the growth and development of a child with autism requires creatively making learning motivating. We apply this same principle as we train our staff through this dynamic, fun and stimulating program. Training classes are highly interactive and inspiring. The focus of these classes is not only on skillfully acquiring the highly effective techniques of *The Son-Rise Program*, but also on each student's individual attitudinal development.

APPRENTICESHIP OVERVIEW

In addition to applying to the training program, applicants must also apply to Autism Treatment Center of America for an employment position. The apprentice will then be paid a base salary until staff position is reached. This base salary is sufficient to support one person in Western Massachusetts and will be increased twice once the student's skill acquisitions are met. Job assignments will be made according to the needs of The Autism Treatment Center of America and the skills of the applicant. Apprentices will work a 39 hour week (Monday through Friday) and the Child Facilitator Training Program will be completed within the regular work week, not as additional hours.

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BENEFITS OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

During The Son Rise Program's Professional Training, students will:

- Master comprehensive application of Son-Rise Program techniques and methodology.
- Engage in hundreds of hours of hands-on experience with a variety of children and adults with special needs.
- Support the local community – working with nearby families during the training program.
- Learn a unique sense of studentship that will enhance all subsequent learning experiences.
- Expand their personal and professional confidence – developing a new perspective to use for the rest of their lives.
- Become part of a world-renowned team of dedicated professionals who believe in limitless possibilities for children.

STRUCTURE OF CHILD FACILITATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

CHILD FACILITATION

This dynamic and intensive training program employs a comprehensive range of teaching modalities combined with extensive experience working one-on-one with children and adults with special needs. The teaching modalities include:

- Observation of *Son-Rise Program* Senior Staff working with special children and adults demonstrating our principles and techniques.
- One-on-one experience working with special children and adults to develop techniques, attitude and confidence.
- Video observation by *Son-Rise Program* Senior Teachers providing specific and individualized instruction to steadily move the student towards mastery of necessary skills.
- One-to-one tutorials with senior members of staff to help with areas of challenge.
- Video-assisted learning under the direct guidance of senior *Son-Rise Program* staff trainers following an extensive curriculum (see below).
- Interactive group classes focusing on principles of *The Son-Rise Program* and practical application of The Option Process.
- Training to lead a child evaluation team, and to present this child evaluation to parents.
- Written assignments requiring analysis of relevant literature.
- Direct and personalized supervision from our team of staff trainers to outline clear and specific requirements for certification.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Introduction to the Fundamentals: The Son-Rise Program® Start-Up

Students will attend the five-day *Son-Rise Program Start-Up* course, which provides a comprehensive overview of *The Son-Rise Program* methodology and its application with children and adults with Autism, Autistic Spectrum Disorders, PDD and related developmental challenges.

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1.0

Bonding Through Acceptance

The fundamental building block in working with special children is establishing a relationship of mutual enjoyment and respect. The segments in this part of the course highlight essential skills to helping a student create this bond.

1.1 The Importance of the Facilitator's Attitude

Focuses on the importance of the student feeling accepting and non-judgmental of themselves and the child or adult with whom s/he is working, regardless of the child's age, actions and/or diagnosis. This essential and fundamental component of *The Son-Rise Program* is emphasized throughout the training program and students move to deeper and deeper levels of comfort and skill.

1.2 Creating a Sense of Energy, Excitement and Enthusiasm

Continues to focus on attitude and how to develop energy, excitement and enthusiasm so as to engage a child and inspire him/her to continually love learning and interaction. Classes focus on genuine development of these feelings, not superficial techniques, to inspire deep human connection between child and facilitator.

1.3 Developing a Child's Eye Contact

Illustrates easy and effective techniques to cultivate an essential ingredient of human interaction—eye-to-eye contact.

1.4 Joining

This fundamental concept enables students to create a unique and valuable rapport with any special child, the heart of a truly child-centered approach to autism unique to *The Son-Rise Program*.

1.5 Role of the Facilitator's Reactions and Responses in Working with Children

Develops an awareness of the students' own reactions and responses and teaches how this is instrumental in helping special children learn.

1.6 Control

How to heighten a child's sense of control to empower him/her to want to interact more with people.

1.7 Effectively Handling Crying, Tantrums and Similar Behaviors

Continues to focus on the attitude of the student while introducing techniques to help a child learn more effective modes of communication. This section covers areas such as crying, tantrums, hitting, biting, throwing objects, etc.

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2.0

Inspiring Growth

To students who have become proficient at *Bonding Through Acceptance*, skills and techniques are introduced which focus on helping children become more social and learn new skills.

2.1 Developing Language

Presents concrete techniques that help children increase their level of language development. This segment covers all levels of development from babbling and partial words to learning the art of conversation.

2.2 Building Interaction

Teaches students how to create motivating learning experiences from the child's own interests and motivations.

2.3 Initiation

How and when to introduce new skills and activities to children with whom a certain level of interaction had been developed.

2.4 Requesting

Presents essential techniques to motivate a child to step up to the next developmental level.

3.0 Evaluating and Goal Setting for Children

In this segment, students learn how to work with parents and fellow professionals in evaluating a special child's social developmental and setting goals based on The Son-Rise Program Developmental Model.

3.1 Evaluating Children

Students are taught to make detailed weekly evaluations of the children to describe current development and pinpoint future areas of growth.

3.2 Participating in Group Meetings with Parents

Teaches presentation skills to enable students to communicate to the parents the most effective ways of working with their child.

3.3 Creating Program Goals

Students join with parents to brainstorm Program Goals that will direct the focus of their work with their child when they return home.

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POST-TRAINING CAREER

All Son-Rise Program Child Facilitators at the Autism Treatment Center of America in Sheffield will be offered a competitive salary (currently \$30,000). This staff position will be contingent upon successful completion of the Son Rise Child Facilitator training program and upon meeting application requirements. Son-Rise Program Child Facilitators on staff at the Autism Treatment Center of America in Sheffield, MA will have opportunities for continued professional growth throughout their career.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Complete and send the **Application for Admission** and **Employment Application** to:
Susan Humphries
Professional Training Department
The Autism Treatment Center of America
2080 S. Undermountain Road
Sheffield, MA, 01257

Send all questions to Susan Humphries, Onsite Recruitment Coordinator, at admissions@option.org.

Our next training course will be held in June 15, 2012. **Applications are due March 19, 2012.** If selected for an interview it is required that you interview in person at our Sheffield, MA center.

PRE-REQUISITES FOR ADMISSION

1. Applicants must demonstrate a passionate dedication to working with children with special needs.
2. This year we are recruiting people from communities surrounding Sheffield, Ma. We are open reviewing applicants from a broader distance if the applicant shows they are committed to living in the area for 5 years.
3. Each applicant should have previous work or volunteer experience working with children or adults with special needs. If you wish to locate a family running a home-based Son-Rise Program in your local area, please visit the Son-Rise Program Message Board at www.autismtreatmentcenter.org/cgi-local/ikonboard/ikonboard.cgi

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PREPARATION FOR APPLICATION

We are looking for applicants with a deep commitment to helping families and their special needs children. Strong applicants will be those who demonstrate an eager studentship by completing the following list of tasks to prepare for the Son-Rise Program Professional Training.

1. Visit The Autism Treatment Center of America website to become familiar with our approach and the services we currently offer to families of children with special needs.

www.autismtreatmentcenter.org

2. Applicants should view our recent web seminars. These seminars will further educate applicants on various topics relating to The Son-Rise Program, particularly how we are different from the Applied Behavior Analysis or Behavior Modification approach to autism treatment.

www.autismtreatmentcenter.org/webinar/index.php

3. Watch the following videos: *Son Rise Program Family Journeys*

www.autismtreatmentcenter.org/contents/other_sections/index.php

Autism Solution: Getting Started with the Son-Rise Program

<http://www.autismtreatmentcenter.org/start>

4. Use the following list of books, CDs and DVDs to become familiar with our teaching principles. Many of these materials will be available at a local library, or can be purchased directly from us by calling (413) 229-2100.

Son-Rise: The Miracle Continues

Happiness is a Choice

Power Dialogues

Breakthrough Strategies for Autism Spectrum Disorders

A Miracle to Believe In

Giant Steps

Special Children / Special Solutions (CD Set)

Autism Can Be Cured (CD)

The Fundamentals of Power Dialogues (CD)

Empowered Leader (CD Set)

We also invite applicants to have an understanding of the fundamental attitude and principles of The Option Process®. These principles will be a fundamental part of the training program.