

What is TEACCH?

The Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication handicapped CHildren (TEACCH) is a division of the Department of Psychiatry of the School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Eric Schopler, Co-Director and Founder of TEACCH and Robert Reichler developed TEACCH from an earlier project. Gary B. Mesibov is the current Director of Division TEACCH.

TEACCH is dedicated to improving the understanding and services available for all children and adults with autism and related communication disorders.

Who is TEACCH for?

The TEACCH program was developed primarily for students with various disorders. These include infantile autism, childhood psychosis, childhood schizophrenia, developmental disabilities, severe emotional disturbances, aphasia with behavior disturbances, and pervasive developmental disorders.

Services

TEACCH provides diagnostic evaluations, individualized curriculum, social skills training, vocational training, and parent counseling and training. The structured classroom teaching approach is one frequently replicated component of TEACCH. This structured teaching approach involves setting up the classroom so that students know "where to be, what to do, and how to do it"-all as independently as possible.

Characteristics of Structured Teaching

- Emphasis is placed on developing individual plans to help people with autism and their families to live together more effectively by reducing or replacing autism related behaviors that interfere with independence and quality of life
- The physical layout of the classroom is arranged in a way that avoids distractions
- Materials are clearly marked and arranged
- Individual needs of students are considered when planning the physical structure on the classroom as well as the instructional lessons
- Schedules are a must! Individuals with autism typically have difficulties with sequential memory and organization of time. Class and individual schedules help to overcome such difficulties.

- Prompts and reinforcements are used in an organized, systematic matter to build success
- Directions are given both verbally and with alternative forms such as written, PECS, or gestures.
- The focus of teaching is on strengths while remediating difficulties
- Takes a broad-based ecological approach by examining diverse areas and components of the individual's life
- Most effective when applied across age groups and agencies
- Individuals with autism are prepared to live and work more effectively at home, at school, and in the community

For More Information

Please visit one of the following websites:

<http://www.teacch.com>
<http://www.autism-resources.com>