



# NEWSLETTER

## Featuring Melissa Dubie

*Training Series Guest Speaker on October 15, 2010*



**Tackling the Uncomfortable:  
A Comprehensive Sexual  
Health Curriculum for  
Teachers, Parents, and  
Health Care Professionals  
Working with Individuals  
with Asperger Syndrome.**

### Want Ad:

Looking for educators, parents, family members, caregivers, counselors, or others who are willing to possibly be embarrassed at times, talk honestly and frankly, give accurate information, show compassion, and understand the world from the perspective of someone with Asperger's Syndrome (AS). Other key personality traits include taking the time to get to know your students, keep an open mind, and having a sense of humor. It is imperative to

have the belief that all individuals have the desire to have a loving relationship with another human being.

The job is to teach an on-going comprehensive sex education class to adolescents and adults with AS on sexual health. The curriculum will include age-appropriate, medically accurate information on the broad topics related to sexuality including human development, reproduction, stages of relationships (friendships, dating, and lifelong), decision making, abstinence and contraception options, sexual responses and partnered sex, sexually transmitted infections, attitudes about differences, and how to avoid unwanted verbal, physical, and sexual advances and intimidation. The strategies will address the core characteristics of individuals with AS including social reciprocity, communication, and restricted interests. Each of these areas complicates developing relationships, intimacy and

### Calendar

#### **Oct. 1, 2010**

Part C - Presenter: Dr. Teresa Cardon - "Creating a Supportive Transition Process" - Wichita, Kansas

#### **Oct. 12, 2010**

Webinar Series - Presenter - Katie Thomas - "Boardmaker - Developing Visual Supports" - Online, across Kansas

#### **Oct. 15, 2010**

Training Series - Presenter: Melissa Dubie - "Tackling the Uncomfortable: Teaching Sexuality to Adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome" - ITV across Kansas

#### **Oct. 25-26, 2010**

Autism Diagnostic Team Training - Facilitator: Sarah Hoffmeier - Topeka, Kansas

#### **Oct. 26, 2010**

Webinar Series - Presenter - Katie Thomas - "Boardmaker - Developing Schedules" - Online, across Kansas

For more information and registration information on Trainings, please visit:

[www.KansasASD.com](http://www.KansasASD.com)

& check out the Training Calendar



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love (Sullivan & Caterino, 2008) in their own way. Some of the key strategies are comprised of:

- **Adding a visual element.** Material presented visually is likely to be easier for your students to learn and provides a support for their organizational deficits. Throughout the lessons we provide as much visual material for students as possible in the form of written handouts, illustrations, photographs, icons, and video suggestions. Using the student's favorite movies and television shows as a medium helps individuals to associate their own experiences can relate to in order to illustrate key social concepts (e.g., asking a girl on a date, body language).
- **Providing information in a concrete manner.** Your students are likely to find abstract information more difficult to understand. Since the nature of relationships is that many aspects are abstract we have attempted to make concepts as factual

and concrete as possible in order to maximize their understanding. Break tasks into small steps, provide a model, practice, and reinforce individuals for their efforts and success (Nichols, et al., 2009).

- **Allowing time for role-play and practice.** Your students can be supported in understanding and expressing the emotions (e.g., relationships and dating) using these techniques incorporating perspective taking and non-verbal communication.

If you think you are the right person for the job, plan to attend the training series on October 15, 2010 to learn about the curriculum Melissa Dubie has created titled Tackling the Uncomfortable: A Comprehensive Sexual Health Curriculum for Teachers, Parents, and Health Care Professionals Working with Individuals with Asperger Syndrome.

### October Tips:

#### Boardmaker:

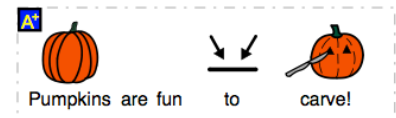


#### Symbolate Button:

Pictures pop up when you use symbolate! Social Narratives can be created so fast with visual

symbols automatically added!

Tips: Control + or - to increase/decrease font size quickly. F2 to select a different icon, or to take away icon. F1 to scroll backwards on icon selections.



#### Visual Supports:

### Boardmaker share

Create a FREE account on [Boardmakershare.com](http://Boardmakershare.com) where you can search TONS of pre-made activities, and even upload your own! Why re-invent the wheel, when you can use something someone else has already taken the time to create? Just make the necessary changes and you've got quick access to implementing visual supports in your class! Check out all of the Fall activities today!

