

---

# **TRAINING PROFESSIONALS TO DELIVER A PARENT-CHILD GROUP INTERVENTION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)**

Costanza Colombi, PhD  
Katherine Rosenblum, PhD

## PURPOSE/GOAL

- To increase access to evidence-based, effective parent based treatment for very young children diagnosed with ASD
- To train professionals in the delivery of a parent-child group intervention for young children with ASD based on ESDM

## EARLY START DENVER MODEL (ESDM, ROGERS AND DAWSON, 2010)

- Evidence based
- Naturalistic approach
- Specifically developed for very young children with ASD
- Fusion of ABA Principles and Developmental Science
- Comprehensive Curriculum
- Delivered through everyday activities (ex: play, chores, daily routines)
- Adapted for delivery in many settings: intensive therapist-child, parent coaching, telehealth, school, parent-child group.

## RELEVANCE TO MEDICAID

- The project addresses the challenges of access to effective parent training for families with young children with ASD
- By increasing the number and capacity of clinicians who serve Michigan families to deliver early intervention, children with ASD will be able to access early intervention immediately after diagnosis
- If successful, this model will provide a basis for increased treatment access for other underserved populations, and can be expanded to better serve the thousands of affected children.

# SETTINGS/SITES

- University of Michigan (training)
- Center for Developmental Disabilities (CADD) at Henry Ford Health System (implementation)
- The Children's Center of Wayne County (implementation)
- Many ASD services and CMH invited (implementation)

# PLANNED ACTIVITIES

## Objective 1: Training

- Development of two training formats: 1. lecture based format; 2. direct participation (accomplished)
- Recruit and train student research assistant volunteers to help with trainings (accomplished)
- Lecture based training (scheduled)
- Direct participation (start in January 2018)

# PLANNED ACTIVITIES

## **Objective 2: Evaluate the training Activities**

- Collect user ratings on training program
- Collect user ratings and feedback on materials
- Evaluate trainees' knowledge through questionnaires
- Evaluate the two training format based on user ratings on programs and trainees' knowledge in both groups.
- Evaluate and provide feedback regarding fidelity based on videotaped intervention sessions submitted by the professionals.

# FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- To train professionals in all aspects of ESDM
- To evaluate implementation of ESDM in partner institutions (ex., Children's Center of Wayne County, Henry Ford)
- To develop parent-child groups for infants and children at risk