



ILLINOIS AUTISM TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



Focus Family Support for Autism Spectrum Disorders

The Illinois Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project (IATTAP) model for providing individualized support to families of children with autism spectrum disorders in Illinois is the Focus Family Support for Autism Spectrum Disorders (FFSASD). FFSASD is adapted from the Family Focus Positive Behavior Support Model developed by West Virginia Autism Training Center through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This model combines key elements from the philosophy of Positive Behavior Support with Family-Centered Planning to achieve positive changes for families and their children with autism spectrum disorders.

The FFSASD is a set of procedures and support strategies that are selected based on an individual family's needs, characteristics and preferences. It is a comprehensive twelve month training process which involves commitments from a team of people including the family and those who support the individual in the school and the community. It includes approximately twelve months of team training and program development designed specifically for the family and their child with an autism spectrum disorder as well as their support team. The team includes two facilitators from the Illinois Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project, members from the extended family, friends and community who are involved in the life of the focus family and targeted school and other agency personnel.

The focus family first participates in a family centered planning and assessment process. Teams receive workshop training related to best practice techniques and strategies for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. The team then develops an individualized and comprehensive support plan. Follow-up from the IATTAP facilitator is provided for approximately eight to ten months afterward.

Families who are interested in Focus Family Support for Autism Spectrum Disorders should complete the Letter of Intent and submit it to IATTAP. For more information, contact the Illinois Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project at 630-968-3898 or gouldkl@comcast.net.

Special consideration is given to the level of functioning in communication, social, academic and adaptive behaviors. Consideration is also given to times when the family or the child is in a major transition period. Families must be willing to fully participate in the program.

There is no cost to the family or school system for Focus Family Support for Autism Spectrum Disorders. IATTAP selects a small number of families annually for this implementation based on funding and staff resources.

www.illinoisautismproject.org
Kathy Gould, Director 630-968-3898 gouldkl@comcast.net

Focus Family Support for Autism Spectrum Disorders Letter of Intent

Date _____

Your Child's Name _____ Your Child's Date of Birth _____

What is the name of the School your Child Attends _____

What is your Child's School District _____

What is your Child's Home District (if he or she does not attend his home school)

What is your Child's Home School (if he or she does not attend his home school)

The school my child attends is a PBIS school _____yes _____ no

Parent(s) Name/ Guardian(s) Name

Address _____

Telephone number (____) _____ email _____

I, _____, as a parent/guardian of _____,
would like to participate in the FFSASD process through the Illinois Autism Training and
Technical Assistance Project as described above.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Any questions, comments or concerns I might have about the Illinois Autism Training
and Technical Assistance Project, the FFSASD process or the consent may be addressed
to:

Kathy Gould, Director
Illinois Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project
1590 S. Fairfield Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148
Phone 630-968-3898
Fax 630-620-9473

Please detach this sheet and mail to address above. Once we receive this letter, we will
contact you to let you know of the availability of FFSASD services.