

Annual Report

July 2019 - June 2020

KENTUCKY AUTISM TRAINING CENTER

The Kentucky Autism Training Center is committed to improving the quality of life for Kentuckians affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder. We do this by bridging research to practice through training and collaboration.



1405 E. Burnett Avenue | Louisville, KY | 40217

www.kyautism.org | 502.852.4631 | katc@louisville.edu

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube

Message from the Director

August 14, 2020

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Kentucky Autism Training Center (KATC) Advisory Board, University of Louisville's College of Education and Human Development, and KATC staff, I am proud to present the KATC's 2019-2020 Annual Report for our 23rd year of service to the autism community of Kentucky. Since the establishment of the KATC in 1996 by the Kentucky General Assembly, the need for integrated and systemic supports and services across all regions of the Commonwealth continues to increase. KATC, like the rest of the world, has experienced some significant challenges from March to the present in providing support to our families and service providers alike. While the pandemic has been a barrier to our in-person training, we have continued to provide services by expanding our virtual format resources.

This report represents a summary of our work in the areas of information dissemination, training, coaching and various other supports. Each section provides an overview of the services, supports provided, and information regarding endeavors with our collaborative partners. In addition to the areas detailed above, it is important to note the many hours KATC staff spend providing resources and supports via telephone calls, virtual consultations, committee meetings, community awareness events, and resource fairs even when a pandemic is not present. Individuals with autism, their families, and service providers need access and opportunities to promote the best possible outcomes in all areas affected by autism.

Establishing and maintaining collaborative partnerships with professionals and related agencies has proven to be productive in moving KATC toward the initial vision of improving the lives of those affected by autism. This has been especially important with the ever-changing and often challenging fiscal climate. With that said, we would like to specifically acknowledge our partnerships with the Regional Educational Cooperatives, Human Development Institute at UK, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Office of Autism. Through these collaborations, the KATC has been successful at leveraging resources and bolstering efforts across the Commonwealth. In a 12 month span, the KATC connected with individuals from 84 of the 120 counties in Kentucky!

On behalf of the KATC Advisory Board and the KATC staff of eight, I would like to thank the many individuals and agencies who support the work of KATC. A special thank you to the KY General Assembly for their continued support.

Sincerely,



R. Larry Taylor, Ed.D. Executive Director, KATC

KATC Advisory Board

The KATC has an Advisory Board that advises the director in matters of policy, staffing, and operation. Board members are committed to the growth of the Kentucky Autism Training Center as it strives towards its mission to enhance supports for persons with autism by providing information, training and technical assistance to families and service providers across Kentucky. Board members are actively involved in the development of collaborative relationships. Members also provide input and expertise in the development, implementation and evaluation of services provided by the KATC. Unless restricted by their employment, members will assist the KATC to procure funding, in addition to state general funds, to accomplish its mission.

Our Advisory Board Members

- Meagan Brannon, Parent
- Gwenna Pennell, Parent
- Mindy Pfau, Parent
- Terri Srinivasan, Parent
- Norma Thomas, Parent
- Justin Cooper, Professional
- Nancy Lovett, Professional
- Kathy Meredith, Professional
- Dr. Elizabeth Sternberg, Professional
- S. Coy Travis, Professional

Meeting Dates

- September 27, 2019
- December 12, 2019
- April 20, 2020

KATC Staff



R. Larry Taylor, Ed.D.
Executive Director



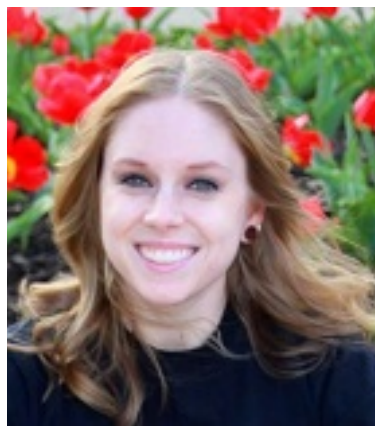
Heidi Cooley-Cook, M.Ed.
Assistant Director



Michelle Bush, M.A.E.
Program Coordinator



Michelle Antle, Ed.S.
Field Training Coordinator



Sarah Bays, M.Ed.
Field Training Coordinator



Kim Howard, M.Ed.
Field Training Coordinator



Enid Hurtado, M.Ed.
Field Training Coordinator



Mike Miller, M.Ed.
Field Training Coordinator



KATC's work during COVID-19

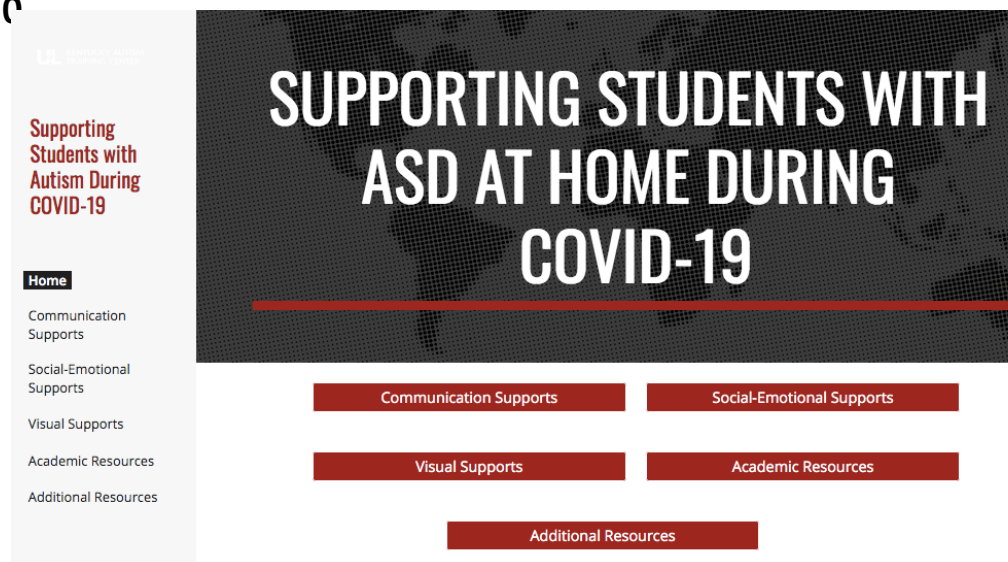
On March 16th, due to COVID-19 KATC began working remotely as advised by the University of Louisville and local and state officials. During this time staff took advantage of countless virtual professional development opportunities while actively creating and conducting online trainings, consulting with families, etc. across the state. Focused on continuously providing individuals we serve with training, support, and resources during this unprecedented time.

On March 20th the KATC launched a statewide website titled Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder During COVID 19. The website was created to support teachers, families and other professionals during the global pandemic. It contains communication, social emotional and visual supports. In addition the website provides additional resources from the CDC and state and was featured on the Kentucky Governor's website and reached not only Kentuckians but individuals across the nation and the globe.

March 20, 2020 - June 30, 2020

<https://bit.ly/ASDathome>

- 5,942 users
- 17,994 page views
- 48 countries reached



"I am a BCBA working in the NKY area and I just wanted to tell you that I so appreciate the resources that were compiled on the Covid website. I was able to share the link with several of my clients/parents of clients, they were incredibly grateful, especially during a time that we are unable to provide regular services for them." Quote from site user on April 10, 2020

FACEBOOK



TWITTER



YOUTUBE



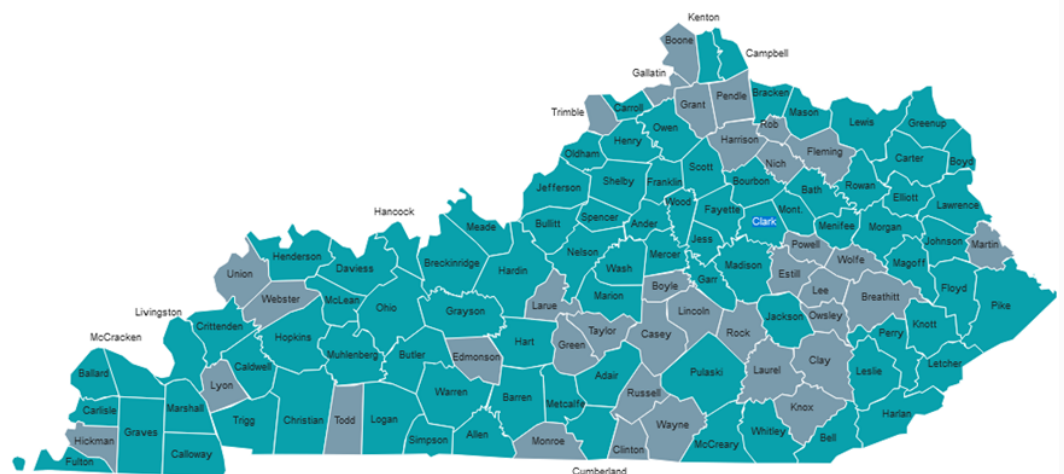
OTHER



Ky Autism Listserv
391 Subscribers

The KATC has a growing online and social media presence. We use these avenues to share information, services, resources and training opportunities to the autism and special needs communities.

In 2020 KATC has reached 84 of the 120 counties in Kentucky through our First Responder Trainings, collaborative work with the Office of Autism, Training Site Initiative, and other events/trainings.



Parent and Professional Trainings

Assessing Autism Spectrum Disorder: Meeting the Challenge

The KATC hosted a two day assessment training on August 27 & 28 in Georgetown, KY for evaluation professionals who have prior education, training and supervised experience in the area of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The training was conducted by Dr. Marilyn Monteiro and Dr. Ann K. Rogers. Participants were introduced to the practical framework for diagnosing autism in children, adolescents, and adults using the Monteiro Interview Guidelines for Diagnosing Autism Spectrum (MIGDAS-2). Participants were also introduced to survey of additional tools designed to comprehensively evaluate individuals who have been referred for suspected ASD.

ADOS-2

The KATC hosted a two-day Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2) training in Bowling Green, KY on September 19 & 20. Participants from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky who attended the event were clinical and school psychologists, psychiatrists, developmental pediatricians, therapists and others that have prior education, training, and experience in conducting assessments. The training was conducted by Rachel Hundley, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Developmental Medicine; Assistant Professor of Psychiatry; Psychologist, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Learning Assessment Clinic Dr. Rachel Hundley is a clinical psychologist who specializes in the assessment and ongoing care for children with developmental disabilities, emotional and behavioral concerns, and autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Autism Transition Summit

The KATC partnered with the UK Human Development Institute, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Kentucky Autism Training Center, and the Office of Autism, to provide training to parents, self-advocates, caregivers and professionals on supporting individuals with autism as they transition into employment. The two and half day event titled Autism Transition Summit: Focus on Employment was on March 10 -12, 2020 in Louisville, KY. Approximately 100 people attended. Day one included a Keynote by Ivanova Smith a self advocate and the day ended with Community Conversations. Day two was a full day of breakout sessions and we ended the last day with mock interviews and resume review for self advocates. Our hosts of presenters included self advocates, parents across the state and career development advisors from UofL.



Training Site Initiative

The Kentucky Autism Training Center (KATC), in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), and the Regional Educational Cooperatives, provides learning opportunities to professionals and parents of students with autism. These opportunities are designed to increase the positive outcomes for learners with autism by the time they exit their high school experience. An initiative that has been of benefit to local schools over the past 10 years is the establishment of “Training Sites”. Schools apply to participate, and if accepted, receive focused onsite technical assistance from KATC and consultants from the Regional Special Education Cooperatives to enhance the school personnel’s skills to serve students with autism.



Training Site Initiative

Criterion:

- Administrative support and engagement
- Teacher who serves students with ASD
- Teacher who demonstrates responsiveness to professional learning
- Commitment to partner with the regional cooperative consultant
- School personnel demonstrate a desire to build district capacity
- Commitment to participate in regional cadre trainings related to autism

General Guidelines:

- School may apply for multiple classrooms
- Teacher completes the application form (collaboratively if multiple teachers)
- Involved personnel are each in good standing with school/district (teacher is not on a corrective improvement plan, student with autism is not a part of the dispute resolution process, etc.)
- All classroom staff and related service staff must review the application and sign to show their commitment
- District director of special education must be informed of the application submission



Training Site Initiative

2019-20 School Year Training Sites

Blaine Elementary, Blaine (District 5)
Calloway County District Site, Murray (District 1)
Camp Dick Robinson Elementary, Lancaster (District 1)
Cartmell Elementary, Carrollton (District 4)
Christian County District Site, Hopkinsville (District 1)
Clark County Preschool, Winchester (District 6)
Crossroads Elementary, Cold Spring (District 4)
DuValle Education Center, Louisville (District 3)
Ezra Sparrow Early Childhood Center, Lawrenceburg (District 6)
Garrard Middle School, Lancaster (District 2)
Graves County District Site, Mayfield (District 1)
Greenup County District Site, Greenup (District 4)
Henderson County District Site, Henderson (District 1)
Henry County High School, New Castle (District 4)
Highland Elementary, Paintsville (District 5)
James A. Cawood Elementary, Harlan (District 5)
James T. Alton Middle School, Vine Grove (District 2)
McCracken County District Site, Paducah (District 1)
McCreary Central High School, Stearns (District 5)
McLean County Middle School, Calhoun (District 1)
Paint Lick Elementary, Paint Lick (District 2)
Pineville Independent, Pineville (District 5)
River Ridge Elementary, Villa Hills (District 4)
Simpson Elementary, Franklin (District 1)
Walton-Verona Elementary, Verona (District 4)
West Broadway Elementary, Madisonville (District 1)
Woodfill Elementary, Fort Thomas (District 4)
Wrigley Elementary, West Liberty (District 6)

First Responder Initiative

The KATC offers a two-hour training currently approved for two CE/Contact Hours from the KY Board of Emergency Medical Services (KBEMS) and KY Fire Commission State Fire Rescue Training.

Topics include:

- Explaining what autism is, including characteristics and spectrum of how these characteristics are expressed among individuals with autism
- Reviewing frequently used terms, interventions, and common types/titles of caregivers
- Understanding how to respond to and interact with individual(s) with autism, including communication strategies
- Identify de-escalation strategies that could be utilized with individuals with autism
- Reviewing local, state-wide, and national resources related to autism



1

MEET AND GREET

19

**FIRST RESPONDER
TRAININGS**

10

**DIFFERENT
CITIES**



First Responder Initiative

Autism and the First Responder Trainings:

July 19

Autism and the First Responder, Corbin (District 5)
Autism and the First Responder, Corbin (District 5)
Autism and the First Responder, Jeffersontown (District 3)

August 19

Louisville Corrections Recruits, Louisville (District 3)
Louisville Metro Police Department Recruits Louisville (District 3)
Fairdale Fire Department, Louisville, (District 3)

September 19

Kentucky State Police Recruits, Frankfort (District 6)

October 19

Allen City Fire Department, Allen (District 6)
Letcher County Fire Department, Whitesburg (District 5)
KY State Police Recruits, Frankfort (District 6)
Louisville Metro Corrections Recruits, Louisville (District 3)
Madisonville Sheriff's Department, Madisonville (District 1)
Mayfield Police Department, Mayfield (District 1)
AMR Lexington, Lexington (District 6)
Frankfort Police Department (District 6)

November 19

Frankfort Police Department (District 6)

December 19

Louisville Fire Department Refresher, Louisville (District 3)
Salyersville Fire and Rescue, Salyersville (District 5)
Louisville Fire Department, Louisville (District 3)



Yellow Dot Program



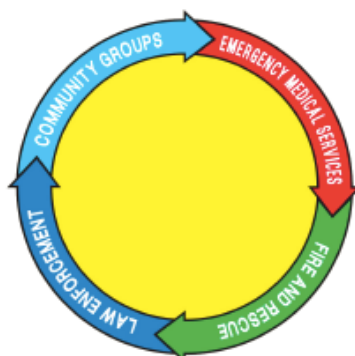
The Yellow Dot Program alerts First Responders at crash scenes of critical medical information that could save a life. Participants in the program provide important medical information that could help emergency responders make split second decisions about how to assist the individual with autism or other medical needs.

Medical Conditions/Recent Surgeries	
Date this information was last reviewed and/or updated: ____ / ____ / 20 ____	
<input type="checkbox"/> I HAVE NO KNOWN MEDICAL CONDITIONS or	
Please check all the following that apply to you:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal EKG	<input type="checkbox"/> Lung/Breathing problems i.e. COPD, Emphysema, Asthma
<input type="checkbox"/> Chest pain (Angina)	<input type="checkbox"/> Alzheimer's (Dementia/Alzheimer's)
<input type="checkbox"/> Heart Attack	<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes-take insulin injections (Diabetes/Insulin Dependent)
<input type="checkbox"/> High Blood Pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes-take pills
<input type="checkbox"/> Heart Rhythm issues (cardiac dysrhythmias)	<input type="checkbox"/> Low sugar (Hypoglycemia)
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacemaker	<input type="checkbox"/> Vision Problems (Eye Surgery)
<input type="checkbox"/> Internal Heart Defibrillator	<input type="checkbox"/> Glaucoma
<input type="checkbox"/> Heart Surgery/Treatment for blockages (Coronary Bypass Grafts, Stents)	<input type="checkbox"/> Broken Bones (Fractures)
<input type="checkbox"/> Heart Surgery for valve problems	<input type="checkbox"/> Overheat easily (Malignant Hyperthermia)
<input type="checkbox"/> Stroke	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant: Date due: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Seizure Disorder	<input type="checkbox"/> Any metal plates, joints, etc.?
<input type="checkbox"/> Previous head injury/surgery Date: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adrenal Insufficiency	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bleeding problems (disorder)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dialysis (Hemodialysis)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kidney Problems	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kidney (Renal) Failure	
<input type="checkbox"/> Anemia (Hemolytic Anemic)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sickle Cell anemia	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis	
<input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS	
<input type="checkbox"/> Leukemia (Cancer: type)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Cancer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Laryngectomy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Autism	

Allergies (Check ALL That Apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> NO KNOWN ALLERGIES	
<input type="checkbox"/> LATEX	<input type="checkbox"/> Novocaine
<input type="checkbox"/> Aspirin	<input type="checkbox"/> Penicillin
<input type="checkbox"/> Barbiturates	<input type="checkbox"/> Sulf
<input type="checkbox"/> Codeine	<input type="checkbox"/> Tetracycline
<input type="checkbox"/> Demoral	<input type="checkbox"/> X-Rays Dyes
<input type="checkbox"/> Insect Stings	<input type="checkbox"/> Xylocaine
<input type="checkbox"/> Lidocaine	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: List Below
<input type="checkbox"/> Morphine	

Materials provided by University of Louisville
Kentucky Autism Training Center
kyautism.org

KATC has provided more than 10,000 Yellow Dots to Kentuckians with autism and their families. Yellow Dot stickers and information folders are available for free and are prepared in-house at the KATC.



The Yellow Dot Program

The information contained in this folder is for first responder use for accident or other medical emergency to assist EMS, Law Enforcement, and Fire and Rescue personnel during the "golden hour."

Communication Style: _____

Calming Strategies: _____

Triggers/Fears: _____

Interests/Attractions: _____

To request a Yellow Dot brochure visit www.kyautism.org

Consultation

KATC Staff consult with individuals, families, and professionals on a variety of topics including sensory friendly performances, behavioral concerns, academic issues, navigating resources, employment, etc.

238 hours

OF CONSULTATION WITH:

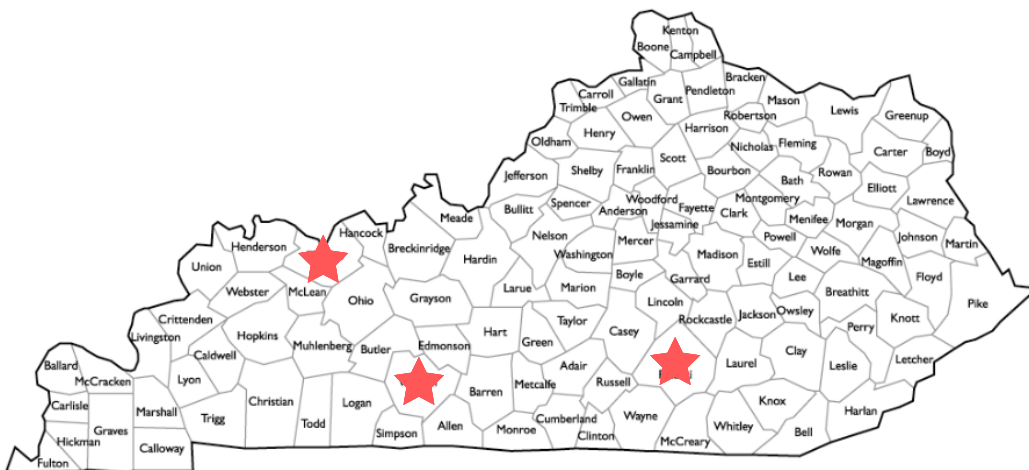
- Breckenridge County Medical Personnel
- Caregivers and Families
- Commission Clinics
- Fayette County Medical Personnel
- Floyd County Indiana Schools
- Hardin County School
- Jefferson County Medical Personnel
- Norton Elementary School
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Oldham County School
- Spalding University
- St. Xavier High School
- University of Louisville Art and Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, English)
- University of Louisville Autism Center
- University of Louisville College of Education and Human Development
- University of Louisville Disability Resources Center
- University of Louisville Department Health and Sport Sciences
- University of Louisville JB Speed School of Engineering
- University of Louisville Social Work Department



Additional Partnerships

Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs

The Autism Initiative in Treatment, Training, and Research (KAITTR) provides diagnostic and/or treatment clinics in collaboration with the Office for Children for Special Health Care Needs (OCSHCN) and physicians from the University of Louisville Autism Center (ULAC) in 5 regions in Kentucky. The team typically consists of a developmental pediatrician, child psychiatrist, and a neurologist who work in conjunction with the OCSHCN staff. KATC provided initial and on-going training for OCSHCN staff at these clinics. KATC Field Training Coordinators partner with the ULAC and Norton physicians and OCSHCN staff to support the families by identifying resources and services to address their specific needs, especially related to the child's school programming. KATC staff have provided almost 30 hours of support and collaboration for this work during the 2019-2020 reporting period at the Owensboro and Bowling Green clinic sites.



Office of Autism

KATC's Executive Director is a Governor-appointed member on the Kentucky Advisory Council on Autism. Additionally, KATC staff are active participants in each of the Council's three subcommittees: Early Childhood, School-Age, and Adolescent/Adult. The KATC partnered with the Office of Autism in planning, presenting, and facilitating the Autism Transition Summit: Focus on employment in Louisville, KY.

Additional Trainings and Events

July 19

- Evidence-Based Practices for Teaching Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder- CKEC Summer PD Series for School Personnel in Lexington (District 6)
- Kentucky Department of Education Waivers for KDE Employees in Frankfort (District 6)
- Guiding Parents/Caregivers in Search of Resources- OVEC MSD for School Personnel in Shelbyville (District 4)
- Teaching Self-Management Strategies to Students with ASD -Summer Institute--Christian County Schools in Hopkinsville (District 1)
- Supporting Children with Autism in the Preschool Classroom -Berea RTC Summer PD Series for School Personnel in Berea (District 6)
- Collaborating with School for JCPS Counselors in Louisville (District 3)
- Initial Training Site Training for School Personnel in Bowling Green (District 2)
- Supporting Adults with Autism for Almcare Human Service Professionals in Elizabethtown (District 2)
- Strategies that Work for the Middle and High School Classroom for Calloway County Summer Institute for School Personnel in Murray (District 1)

August 19

- Autism and the Arts for KY Thespians, School Personnel and Theater Directors in Louisville (District 3)
- Behavioral Intervention in the Regular Ed Classroom Warren County Opening Day PD for School Personnel in Bowling Green (District 2)
- Improv and Autism APA Convention Poster Session for Caregivers, Human Service Professionals, Individuals with Autism, School Personnel, Psychologists in Chicago Illinois
- Autism Spectrum Disorders: From Diagnosis to Intervention -Professional Learning Day for Human Service Professionals in Bowling Green (District 2)
- Behavioral Intervention in the Preschool Classroom Preschool Opening Day training for School Personnel in Lewisport (District 1)

September 19

- Meeting Your Child Where They Are for Caregivers, Human Service Professionals in Whitesburg (District 5)
- Applied Behavior Analysis in the Classroom for Paducah Independent PD in Paducah (District 1)
- GRREC ASD Cadre--Crisis Plan Development for School Personnel in Bowling Green (District 2)
- Autism and Wandering/Elopement KY Occupational Conference Association for Occupational Therapists and OT students in Richmond (District 6)
- West KY ASD Cadre--Compression Planning for Creating a District Team for School Personnel in Murray (District 1)
- Navigating Resources for individuals with ASD for Dr.Gravil's Assessment Class for CEHD Students in Louisville (District 3)
- ABA in the Home Setting in Munfordville for Hart of Autism Parent Support Group and Caregivers (District 2)
- Reframing Autism: Collaborating to Help Students on the Spectrum Thrive a Collaboration with The Dean of Students Office, Delphi Center for Teaching and Learning, and Disability Resource Center for School Personnel in Louisville (District 3)

Additional Trainings and Events

October 19

- ABA in the School Setting: Day 2 Indep--McNabb Elem Pfor School Personnel in Paducah (District 1)
- Preparing for First Day of Teaching : ASD and Success with Accommodations in Jamie Gootee's Class in Louisville (District 3)
- Understanding Autism in IECE for Campbellsville University IECE class for University Students in Elizabethtown (District 2)
- Autism: From Diagnosis to Intervention First Steps PD Day Caregivers, Human Service Professionals, Medical Personnel, First Steps Providers in Bowling Green (District 2)

November 19

- UofL School of Medicine Residents ASD Navigation and Resources for UofL Residents (District 3)
- Higher Education and inclusion College of Business in Louisville (District 3)
- Inclusion Based Practices for McKell Elementary School Personnel in McKell in (District 4)
- The Second City Workshop for teens with autism for KY Center sponsored event -Individuals with Autism, The Second City education staff, KY Center staff, Mercy Academy students and Theatre Director in Louisville Kentucky (District 3)
- Parent Support Group Planning - Nelson County Parent Support Group New Perceptions for in Bardstown (District 2)
- Intro to ABA: Day 3 (reinforcement and FCT) - Professional Development for Paducah Independent School Personnel in Paducah (District 1)
- Autism Social-Emotional Tools and Resources Connect the Dots -ASD OCALICON (Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence Conference) for Caregivers, Human Service Professionals, Individuals with Autism, Medical Personnel, School Personnel in Columbus Ohio
- Meeting Sensory Needs of Diverse Learners – Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children Conference for School Personnel in Louisville (District 3)
- Weathering the Storm of Challenging Behaviors: From Dark Clouds to Clear Skies Council for Kentucky Exceptional Children Conference for School Personnel in Louisville (District 3)
- Wandering, Safety, and Autism - What you can do to support the development of safety skill Kentucky Council on Exceptional Children Conference for School Personnel in Louisville (District 3)
- Functional Communication Training - What do you want? Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children Conference for School Personnel in Louisville (District 3)

December 19

- Behavior Support in home for Caregivers, School Personnel in Stanville (District 6)
- Overview of KATC and Safety Resources Pediatricians Urging Safety & Health (PUSH) Advocacy Meeting for Medical Personnel in Louisville (District 3)

Additional Trainings and Events

To request or to receive additional details about a training, visit our website www.kyautism.org.

- **Training for First Responders**

The KATC staff can provide a training at a variety of times and days of the week to best meet the needs of the requesting agency. For example, one agency needed a single session with 65 participants, while another agency requested 1,200 individuals be trained by offering the training over 20 times. Requesting a First Responders Training provides the opportunity for discussion, brainstorming and problem solving, as well as enhanced connections amongst participants.

- **Training for Professionals**

The KATC staff can provide training on autism and related topics to professional and community groups across Kentucky. The KATC encourages professional groups to work in collaboration with KATC to design a presentation to meet your group's needs.

- **Training for Groups**

The KATC staff can provide 1 to 1.5 hour workshops on autism and related topics, as part of an ongoing effort to improve services for those affected with ASD in Kentucky. Autism related support groups and other family groups across Kentucky can access these workshops free of charge. Although we have a list of suggested topics on our website, we encourage family groups to work in collaboration with our trainers to design a presentation to meet your support group's needs.



How to Support KATC

General Donations

The KATC's asks that you please make a donation to aid in continuing our mission to improve the lives of individuals affected by autism.

Donations will be used for, but not limited to, the following:

- Continue and increase the number of regional trainings and workshops we offer throughout the state
- Continue and increase the number of service provider trainings
- Increase First Responder trainings (Fire Fighters, EMS, Police Offices, etc.) throughout the state
- Continue distributing Yellow Dot Brochures to individuals and agencies across the state
- Develop and distribute other resources for individuals with autism and those that love and support them
- Provide KATC staff with professional development opportunities to keep them abreast of the most current resources, supports, etc. pertaining to autism to assist individuals and their families

Donations can be made online or mailed.

Online Donations:

<https://tinyurl.com/DonatetoSupportKATC>

Mailed Donations:

University of Louisville

1000 University of Louisville

Louisville, KY 40208

*Add KATC Gift account to note line of your check



Scan Here
to Donate