

**2014 – 2015**

**Annual Report of Activities**

**UNIVERSITY OF  
LOUISVILLE®**

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**KENTUCKY AUTISM  
TRAINING CENTER** 

The mission of the Kentucky Autism Training Center (KATC) is to strengthen Kentucky's systems of support for persons affected by autism by bridging research to practice and by providing training and resources to families and professionals. KATC is committed to improving the quality of life for those affected by ASD.

Kentucky Autism Training Center  
College of Education and Human Development  
University of Louisville Autism Center at Kosair Charities  
1405 E Burnett Street  
Louisville, KY 40217  
<http://louisville.edu/education/kyautismtraining/>

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August 1, 2015

Dear Friends:

Since the establishment of the KATC in 1996, the number of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) continues to increase. The most recent prevalence rate of ASD from the Center for Disease Control is 1 in 68 individuals. The need for integrated and systemic supports and services in all regions of the Commonwealth is great.

I am proud to present to you this copy of the Kentucky Autism Training Center's (KATC) 2014-2015 Annual Report, our eighteenth year of service to the autism community of Kentucky. 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, support provided in each area, and information regarding our collaborative partners.

In addition to work detailed in this report, it is important to note the hundreds of hours our staff spend providing resources and supports via telephone calls, committee meetings, community awareness events, and resource fairs. Establishing and maintaining positive relationships with families and professionals for the betterment of individuals with autism has proven to be productive in achieving the KATC vision.

On behalf of the KATC Advisory Board and the KATC staff of 7 folks, I would like to thank you for your support. Please feel free to contact me with any feedback or suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Larry Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive.

R. Larry Taylor  
Executive Director, Kentucky Autism Training Center

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*The mission of the Kentucky Autism Training Center (KATC) is to strengthen Kentucky's systems of support for persons affected by autism by bridging research to practice and by providing training and resources to families and professionals. KATC is committed to improving the quality of life for those affected by ASD.*

## **Mission**

The mission of the Kentucky Autism Training Center (KATC) is to strengthen our state's systems of support for persons affected by autism by bridging research to practice and by providing training and resources to families and professionals. KATC is committed to improving the quality of life for those affected by ASD.

## **History**

The KATC is a university-based program with a legislative mandate, 13 KAR 2:080. State Autism Training Center, to enhance outcomes for all Kentuckians with ASD. KATC strives to “bridge the research to practice gap” by leveraging resources, building sustainable collaborative relationships, and “scaling-up” the use of evidence-based practices in all regions of Kentucky.

In 1996, the Kentucky General Assembly established the Kentucky Autism Training Center to serve as a statewide resource for families and educators. KATC is housed at the University of Louisville’s College of Education and Human Development. For over ten years the KATC has supported individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) by providing hands-on training for educators in the classroom, hosting workshops for families, and conducting professional development sessions.

KATC has worked toward its goals to strength the network of technical assistance and professional development, leverage resources, enhance supports and build collaborative relationships.

## **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. The composition of the board consists of parents (50%), professionals (40%) and lay members (10%) from across the Commonwealth, as outlined in KRS 164.9811(2). 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.

## **Current Advisory Board Members**

- Mike Armstrong, Professional, Executive Director of the Kentucky School Boards Association
- Meagan Brannon, Parent, Bracken County
- Ally Brooks, Parent, Christian County
- Paula Goff, Professional, State Coordinator, Part C
- Rhonda Hedges, Professional, Principal, Jefferson County Schools
- Gretta Hylton, Professional, Director, Division of Learning Services Office of Next-Generation Learners Kentucky Department of Education
- Dr. Nancy Lovett, Professional, Director, Calloway County Early Childhood Regional Training Center
- Jennifer Ouderkirk, Parent, Fleming County
- Robert Pennington, Professional, Assistant Professor, Special Education, College of Education and Human Development
- Mindy Pfau, Parent, Carter County

- Maureen Schell, Parent, Jefferson County
- Kellie D. Scott, Professional, Program Evaluator Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Terri Srinivasan, Parent, Mason County
- Dr. Elizabeth Sternberg, Professional, Warren County
- Norma Thomas, Parent, Vice Co-Chair, Jefferson County
- Melissa Young, Professional, Senior Fellow, Council on Postsecondary Education
- Diane Zero, Parent, Oldham County

### **Ex-Officio Board Members**

- Linda Collins, Parent, Letcher County
- Nat McKay, Parent, Oldham County
- Laurie Spezzano, Parent, Oldham County
- Dr. Peter Tanguay, Professional, Jefferson County
- R. Larry Taylor, Professional, Executive Director, Kentucky Autism Training Center

## **KATC Strategic Focus**

### **KATC Roles**

- Inform the systems of support for education, early childhood, mental health, and employment
- Build regional capacity
- Facilitate network
- Empower families to access the resources
- Develop of documents, videos, and other evidence-based information
- Develop evidence-based models and practices for families, teachers, and schools
- Collaborate with the Kentucky Department of Education to develop training and technical assistance for schools and school district

### **KATC Beliefs**

- All people with ASD have value, can contribute and are unique.
- All people with ASD and their families deserve access to seamless systems of multidisciplinary support across the lifespan.
- Communities need to be prepared to embrace all individuals with autism.
- Support and services should be person-centered.
- Early diagnosis, followed by early intervention, can improve outcomes.
- Professionals need support and resources in order to sustain evidence-based practices and master new skills.
- Fidelity of evidence-based practice is the basis of effective service delivery across communities.
- Comprehensive planning and data based decisions are essential for continuous improvement of the processes and outcomes of our work.
- Attracting professionals to the field of ASD is important to the sustainability of services.
- Changing political and social environments will continue to demand flexibility and creativity.
- When we educate individuals with ASD, we aim for personal independence and social responsibility.

## **KATC Strategic Goals**

### **Goal 1: KATC will create, grow, and maintain relationships with service systems and providers that serve individuals with ASD and their families**

- Use technology to promote KATC, distribute informational materials, and communicate with families and professionals.
- Increase communication with educational leaders in Kentucky and report findings to diverse audiences.
- Develop relationship with early interventions service systems to promote early identification, diagnostics and the use of appropriate & evidence practices.
- Develop relationship with mental health service system and providers to promote the use of appropriate & evidence practices.
- Develop relationship with adult service system and providers to promote the use of appropriate & evidence practices.
- Develop relationships with established family groups and disseminate information to "underserved" populations.

### **Goal 2: KATC will develop materials and supports consistent with evidence-based practices for families, educators, and service providers**

- Utilize technology to disseminate information to families and professionals.
- Develop resources, planning processes and communication mechanisms for educators.
- Provide basic information about resources, supports, services and evidence-based practices to families and professionals.
- Provide work experience for intern(s) in an office setting.
- Provide religious communities with basic information about building supportive environments for families affected by autism and empower support groups to develop relationships with religious communities.

### **Goal 3: KATC will provide direct training consistent with evidence-based practices to families, educators, and service providers across the commonwealth of Kentucky**

- Provide web-based content regarding evidence-based practice.
- Provide information regarding evidence based practices, data collection, coaching and program planning for educators, early interventionists, professionals supporting adults and family members.
- Strategies to implement strategic plan
- Purposefully integrate individuals and families into network, program, and resource planning.
- Use a variety of technology-based delivery and communication systems to connect with families and professionals.

## **Strategies to Guide the Work of the KATC**

- Purposefully integrate individuals and families into network, program, and resource planning.
- Use a variety of technology-based delivery and communication systems to connect with families and professionals.

- Promote the development of seamless systems of individual and family support in early intervention, mental health, education, and employment.
- Extend the regional capacity development approach to early intervention, mental health, and employment.
- Target general and special educators and administrators with information and resources about ASD. Support all school professionals in their efforts to provide students with ASD access to all school environments and the general education curriculum.
- Establish and conduct collaborative activities with University partners

**2014-2015 KATC Activities**  
**INFORMATION DISSEMINATION**

**Website:** 40,954 visits-<http://louisville.edu/education/kyautismtraining/>

**Newsletter:** Quarterly electronic distribution to 6,278 Subscribers

This year KATC's newsletters discussed topics such as *Choosing a Behavior Analyst, ASD and Schools, Autism Forces Parents to Adapt, ASD Support Groups, Peer Support Network, and Safety* to name a few. The newsletter also disseminated information about training opportunities provided by KATC and autism education programs offered throughout the state. The newsletter subscriber email database has grown to 6,278 subscribers in June 2014.

**Webinars:** 27 webinars for 486 attendees

KATC offered webinar trainings that focused on both family and professional learning needs. The topics included in Figure 1 were also approved for continuing education credit through the American Speech and Hearing Association, KY Cabinet for Family and Children, and Educational Instructional Leadership credit. The KATC offered a total of 27 live webinars that were attended by 486 participants.

**2014-2015 KATC Webinars**

Date	Topic	Speaker
6/30/2014	<i>Autism and Early Childhood Professional Development Online Course: Early Childhood Development &amp; Autism</i>	Julie Stewart, Former KATC Field Trainer
6/30/2014	<i>To Be a Sib: An Exploration from the Perspectives of Siblings of Children with Special Needs</i>	Amanda Westmoreland, MS, LMFT
7/23/2014	<i>Autism and Early Childhood Professional Development Online Course: Drowning in Data! Streamlining the RTI Process in Preschool</i>	E. Caitlin Conley, Educator
7/28/2014	<i>Autism and Early Childhood Professional Development Online Course: Environmental &amp; Instructional Supports for Students' with Autism in the Preschool Classroom</i>	Julie Stewart, Former KATC Field Trainer
8/4/2014	<i>Autism and Early Childhood Professional Development Online Course: Systematic Instruction in the Preschool Classroom</i>	Julie Stewart, Former KATC Field Trainer
9/8/2014	<i>Autism and Early Childhood Professional Development Online Course: From the Table to the Playground: Practical Applications for ABA in Early Childhood Environments</i>	E. Caitlin Conley, Educator



9/16/2014	<i>Structured Work Systems in the Classroom and at Home</i>	Kim Howard, KATC Field Trainer
9/22/2014	<i>Autism and Early Childhood Professional Development Online Course: Drowning in Data! Streamlining the RTI Process in Preschool</i>	E. Caitlin Conley, Educator
10/8/2014	<i>Housing Options for Adults with Autism</i>	Heidi Cooley-Cook, KATC Field Trainer
10/14/2014	<i>Seclusion and Restraint Legislation: What does this mean for public schools?</i>	Michelle Antle, KATC Field Trainer
10/20/2014	<i>Autism and Early Childhood Professional Development Online Course: Early Childhood Development &amp; Autism</i>	Julie Stewart, Former KATC Field Trainer
11/3/2014	<i>Autism and Early Childhood Professional Development Online Course: Environmental &amp; Instructional Supports for Students' with Autism in the Preschool Classroom</i>	Julie Stewart, Former KATC Field Trainer
11/12/2014	<i>How to Access Services Available through the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation</i>	Holly Hendricks, MRC, CRC, Assistant Director of Program Services, Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
11/20/2014	<i>Using Cognitive Behavior Therapy Techniques with Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders</i>	Michelle Antle, KATC Field Trainer
12/4/2014	<i>Structured Work Systems Part 2: Structuring Learning to Incorporate Academic Goals</i>	Kim Howard, KATC Field Trainer
12/8/2014	<i>Autism and Early Childhood Professional Development Online Course: Systematic Instruction in the Preschool Classroom</i>	Julie Stewart, Former KATC Field Trainer
12/10/2014	<i>Accessing, Recognizing and Advocating for Quality Employment Supports</i>	Katie Wolf Whaley, Project Director, Supported Employment Training Project, UK HDI
2/16/2015	<i>Autism and Early Childhood Professional Development Online Course: From the Table to the Playground: Practical Applications for ABA in Early Childhood Environments</i>	E. Caitlin Conley, Educator

2/24/2015	<i>Exercise As An Evidence Based Practice for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders</i>	Michelle Antle, KATC Field Trainer
2/24/2015	<i>Using Cognitive Behavior Therapy Techniques with Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders</i>	Michelle Antle, KATC Field Trainer
3/16/2016	<i>Autism and Early Childhood Professional Development Online Course: Drowning in Data! Streamlining the RTI Process in Preschool</i>	E. Caitlin Conley, Educator
3/23/2015	<i>Increasing Opportunities for Communication throughout the day for Students on the Autism Spectrum</i>	Laura Ferguson, KATC Field Trainer
3/30/2015	<i>Working with Individuals on the Autism Spectrum in the General Education Setting</i>	Laura Ferguson, KATC Field Trainer
4/7/2015	<i>Show Me the Money: Navigating Kentucky's Funding Sources in 2015</i>	Heidi Cooley-Cook, KATC Field Trainer
4/14/2015	<i>Meeting Sensory Needs</i>	Kim Howard, KATC Field Trainer
4/28/2015	<i>What's New in Kentucky: An Overview of the Kentucky Advisory Council on Autism Spectrum Disorder</i>	Amy Cooper Puckett, KY Office of Autism
5/20/2015	<i>Bullying and Autism</i>	Kim Howard, KATC Field Trainer

**Feedback from webinar attendees:**

*This information is much needed and helpful.*

*Information was presented in a sequential and orderly fashion. Easy to follow and apply to my situation as a teacher.*

*I like the webinars as a way to learn about information to support my son. It is difficult for me to travel from my home to attend other trainings.*

*I am so fortunate to have KATC as a resource. This webinar, the website, and my questions answered by phone has been my lifeline.*

*This was great information that I can use immediately for students in my classroom.*

**Twitter:** 217 followers

KATC joined Twitter in June 2012 and as of June 30, 2015 we have 217 followers.

**Facebook:** 2,506 “likes”

KATC utilizes Facebook to communicate with the autism community in Kentucky to share resources and advertise KATC trainings. As of June 30, 2015 the KATC has 2,506 “likes”.

**YouTube Channel:** 14,510 views, 256 Subscribers, 1,767 hours watched

KATC’s recorded webinars are archived online on [youtube.com](http://youtube.com). Currently, 73 webinars are archived. Currently, there are 256 subscribers who have viewed 14,510 videos, for a total of 106,020 minutes watched.

**Amanda L. King Resource Library:** Unique collection. Statewide distribution

The Amanda L. King Resource Library is a collection of materials on topics such as ASD, disability, education, transition, parenting, and child development. These materials are available for checkout at no cost to families and professionals across the commonwealth of Kentucky. Library houses a large collection of resources on autism, special education, and vocational information. This collection is available to all citizens of Kentucky.

**Kentucky Autism Service and Supports Directory:** 472 Providers listed

The goal of the KATC’s Autism Service and Supports Directory is to increase information about community resources available to individuals with autism and their families. Users can search by age, county, service, and region. Current 472 providers are listed on the directory.

**KYAUTISM LISTSERV:** 348 members participate in statewide virtual information and resource sharing.

The KYAUTISM Listserv is hosted by the Kentucky Autism Training Center. The purpose of the KATC listserv is to share information, services, resources, and training opportunities in a positive and respectful way. Currently 348 individuals are subscribed to the listserv.

**Promoting Early Identification:** Affiliation with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), public awareness campaign “Learn the Signs-Act Early.” Facebook page and website. Print materials. Statewide distribution has been provided through collaboration with myriad of child and family service programs.

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation:** KATC staff conducted a learning conference with 10 Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors to identify services and supports available for individuals with autism.

## TRAINING

### Parent Summit

KATC collaborated with the Kentucky Office of Autism to provide a Parent Summit that was attended by 81 parents at Barren River State Park in May 2015. Parents were provided information in a Round Tables Format by representatives from the following agencies:

- Easter Seals
- First Steps
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Family Courts/Guardianship
- Protection and Advocacy
- KY Parent Information Network/KY-SPIN
- VSA-KY/Art Program by Kennedy Foundation
- Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Warren County Fire Department/Safety
- Human Development Institute/Supported Employment
- School Services/Director of Special Education
- ARC of Kentucky
- Kentucky Autism Training Center

MaryLee Underwood, Director in the Office of Developmental Disabilities, provided a keynote speech, *United We Stand! The Importance of Collaborative Advocacy*. In addition, 9 informational sessions on a variety of topics pertaining to individuals with autism and their families were provided.

### Technical Support

KATC Field Training Coordinator (FTC) provided direct ongoing consultation to 79 individuals and or their families related to service agencies, i.e. schools, First Steps, Preschool, and Postsecondary support agencies. When individuals with autism and or their parents call, email, or referred by the University of Louisville Autism Clinic and other physicians, the FTC provides technical assistance in accessing supports and resolving challenges.

### Kentucky Head Start Conference

KATC personnel provided training at 5 sessions at the annual Kentucky Head Start Conference.

### Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference

KATC partnered with the KY CEC to provide training at the annual CEC Conference that was attended by more than 1,100 participants. KATC staff conducted 6 sessions attended by teachers, school administrators, and others throughout KY.

### Kentucky Autism Initiative in Treatment, Training, and Research (KAITR)

Diagnostic clinics have been provided in collaborations with the Commission for Children for Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN) at in 5 regions in Kentucky. KATC provided training for CCSHCN staff at the clinics and when needed. KATC staff also provided information, as

needed to local school district personnel to support the educational programming for students with autism.

### **Support Group Presentations and Support**

KATC Field Training Coordinator presented on a variety of topics at 8 Parent Support Groups for children with autism in various regions in KY. Resource information and technical assistance was provided to other support groups as requested.

### **University of Louisville Autism Clinic (ULAC) Training Series**

Parents brought their children to the ULAC for Social Skills Groups. During this time, KATC staff provided training to parent on the following learning opportunities on 10 separate evenings:

- Using KATC Resources
- Communication
- School Transition
- Employment Transition
- Collaborative Advocacy
- Resource Fair
- School Exceptional Children Service
- Wills, Trust, and Guardianship
- College and University Programs
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

### **Regional Workshops**

KATC staff conducted 6 workshops in 6 locations for 233 attendees from 47 counties in Kentucky. The topic presented, *Understanding Challenging Behavior*, was identified as the area of greatest need by parents and professionals.

## Statewide Trainings for Parents and Professional Provided by KATC Field Training Coordinators

<b>Training Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Trainer</b>
June 2014	Initial Training Site Training	Western Kentucky Educational Cooperative	Michelle Antle
June 2014	Autism 101	Bowling Green Family Support Group	Michelle Antle
June 2014	Feeding Issues in Children with Autism	Christian County SNAPS (Family Support Group)	Michelle Antle
July 2014	Initial Training Site Training	Breckinridge and Hancock Counties Schools	Michelle Antle
July 2014	Initial Training Site Training	Warren County Schools	Michelle Antle
July 2014	Autism 101: From Diagnosis to Intervention	Owensboro Commissioner for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN)	Michelle Antle
July 2014	Initial Training Site Training	Barren County Schools	Michelle Antle
July 2014	Systematic Instruction for Students with Autism	Hardin County Schools, Elizabethtown, KY	Laura Ferguson
July 2014	Systematic Instruction	Western KY schools Special Education Conference, Ft. Campbell, KY	Laura Ferguson
July 2014	Systematic Instruction	Pulaski County Schools Somerset, KY	Laura Ferguson
July 2014	Autism and Treatment Planning	Eastern KY Professionals Morehead, KY	Laura Ferguson
July 2014	Training Site Training	Lincoln County Schools Stanford, KY	Laura Ferguson
July 2014	Working with Individuals with Autism	Whitley County Head Start Whitley County, KY	Laura Ferguson
July 2014	Training Site Training	Scott County school Georgetown, KY	Laura Ferguson
July 2014	Autism and Strategies	Bell County Head Start Bell County	Laura Ferguson
July 2014	Training Site Training	Casey County & Somerset Independent Schools, Somerset, KY	Laura Ferguson
July 2014	Applied Behavior Analysis in the Classroom	Lincoln County schools Stanford, KY	Laura Ferguson
July 2014	KY Autism Orientation Training for Training	Eastern KY Training Site Schools Ashland, KY	Kim Howard
July 2014	Autism & Treatment Planning for Pathways	Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative Hazard, KY	Kim Howard

July 2014	Social Communication Needs for Children with Autism	Floyd Co. Schools Prestonsburg, KY	Kim Howard
July 2014	ABC's of Behavior	Floyd Co. Schools Prestonsburg, KY	Kim Howard
July 2014	Inclusion of Children with Autism	Pike County Schools Pikeville, KY	Kim Howard
Aug. 2014	Initial Training Site Training	Hart County Schools	Michelle Antle
Aug. 2014	Initial Training Site Training	Russell County Schools	Michelle Antle
Aug. 2014	Feeding Issues in Children with Autism	Warren County Schools	Michelle Antle
Aug. 2014	Strategies that Work in the Regular Education Setting	Caverna Independent Schools	Michelle Antle
Aug. 2014	Sensory Integration Difficulties in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders	Owensboro CSHCN	Michelle Antle
Aug. 2014	Working Collaboratively with Schools	Buffalo Trace Autism Support Group, Maysville, KY	Heidi Cooley-Cook
Aug. 2014	Resources for Families on the Autism Spectrum	Support Group, Paducah, KY	Heidi Cooley-Cook
Aug. 2014	Supporting Individuals with Autism	Homehelpers Inc. Louisville, KY	Laura Ferguson
Aug. 2014	Instructing Students with MSD	Oldham County Teachers Buckner, KY	Laura Ferguson
Aug. 2014	Training Site Training	Oldham County Schools Crestwood, KY	Laura Ferguson
Aug. 2014	Training Site Training	Hardin County Schools Hardin County, KY	Laura Ferguson
Aug. 2014	Training Site Training	Pulaski County Schools Somerset, KY	Laura Ferguson
Aug. 2014	Behavior Basic's for Preschoolers	Letcher County Preschool Whitesburg, KY	Kim Howard
Sept. 2014	Autism Diagnosis & Characteristics	Paducah CSHCN	Michelle Antle
Sept. 2014	The Hidden Curriculum	Caverna Independent Schools	Michelle Antle
Sept. 2012	Making Consultation Easier: Evidence Based Practices for Students with ASD	Kentucky Association of Psychologists in Schools	Michelle Antle
Sept. 2014	Building Independence and Promoting Social Growth in Children Diagnosed with ASD	Pennyroyal Center in Hopkinsville	Michelle Antle

Sept. 2014	Strengthening Support for Families Affected by Autism	Kids Are Worth It! Conference, Louisville, KY	Heidi Cooley-Cook Amy Cooper-Puckett
Sept. 2014	Resources and Supports	WAGS: Washington Autism Group of Support, Springfield, KY	Heidi Cooley-Cook Michelle Antle
Sept. 2014	ABA in the Classroom	Taylor Elementary Brooksville, KY	Laura Ferguson
Sept. 2014	Visual Supports	Pulaski County Teachers, Somerset, KY	Laura Ferguson
Oct. 2014	Seclusion and Restraint in Kentucky's Public Schools	KATC Webinar	Michelle Antle
Oct. 2014	Understanding Challenging Behaviors in Individuals with ASD	Barren River State Park Lucas, KY	Michelle Antle Laura Ferguson
Oct. 2014	Applied Behavior Analysis 101: Methods and Strategies	Western Kentucky University's Clinical Education Complex's "The Summit Training"	Michelle Antle
Oct. 2014	Autism in the Classroom: Strategies for Success	KAAC Conference, Louisville, Kentucky	Michelle Antle
Oct. 2014	Understanding Challenging Behaviors in Individuals with ASD	My Old Kentucky Home State Park Bardstown, KY	Michelle Antle Laura Ferguson
Oct. 2014	Discrete Trial Teaching	Plano Elementary School, Warren County Schools	Michelle Antle
Oct. 2014	Autism 101	BAWAC7, Florence, KY	Heidi Cooley-Cook
Oct. 2014	Autism 101	Family Resource Youth Service Center Conference	Heidi Cooley-Cook
Oct. 2014	Working with Individuals on the Autism Spectrum	Jessamine County Early Childhood Nicholasville, KY	Laura Ferguson
Oct. 2014	Building Collaboration" Morehead Convention Center	Morehead, KY	Laura Ferguson
Oct. 2014	Teaching Communication to Individuals with Autism	Morehead Convention Center Morehead, KY	Laura Ferguson
Oct. 2014	Including Individuals with Autism in the General Education Setting	KY Association of School Administrators Conference Louisville, KY	Laura Ferguson
Oct. 2014	Understanding Autism	Shively Baptist Church Louisville, KY	Laura Ferguson



Oct. 2014	Systematic Instruction	Southeast/Southcentral Educational Cooperative London, KY	Laura Ferguson
Oct. 2014	Understanding Challenging Behavior in Individuals with Autism	Lake Barkley State Park Cadiz, KY	Michelle Antle Laura Ferguson
Oct. 2014	Meeting the Social Needs of Young Learners	Morehead State Early Childhood Conference Morehead, KY	Kim Howard
Oct. 2014	Meeting the Sensory Needs of Young Learners	Morehead State Early Childhood Conference Morehead, KY	Kim Howard
Nov. 2014	Conducting Threat Assessments with Students with ASD	School Counselors and School Social Workers, GRREC Region	Michelle Antle
Nov. 2014	Discrete Trial Training with Early Learners	Breckinridge County Schools Training Site Staff	Michelle Antle
Nov. 2014	Resources for Parents & Professionals	Western Kentucky University's Early Childhood/Preschool Training Program	Michelle Antle
Nov. 2014	Exercise, Video Modeling and Antecedent Based Intervention	ASD Cadre GRREC Members	Michelle Antle
Nov. 2014	Autism Characteristics and Basic Interventions	Crittenden County EMS, Police, Rescue Squad, Firefighters, and Educational Staff)	Michelle Antle
Nov. 2014	Using Cognitive Behavior Therapy Techniques with Individuals with ASD	KATC Webinar	Michelle Antle
Nov. 2014	Exercise, Video Modeling and Antecedent Based Intervention	KY CEC Conference Louisville, KY	Michelle Antle
Nov. 2014	Autism 101	Kentucky Annual Exceptional Children's Conference	Heidi Cooley-Cook
Nov. 2014	Applied Behavior Analysis in the Classroom	CEC Conference, Louisville, November, 2014	Laura Ferguson
Nov. 2014	Working with Individuals on the Autism Spectrum	Jessamine County Early Childhood, Nicholasville, KY	Laura Ferguson
Nov. 2014	Behavior Management and Autism	Western KY Early Childhood Conference Murray, KY	Laura Ferguson
Nov. 2014	Understanding Challenging Behavior in Individuals with Autism	Jenny Wiley State Park Prestonsburg, KY	Laura Ferguson Kim Howard

Nov. 2014	Visualizing Progress with Visual Supports	KY CEC Conference Louisville, KY	Kim Howard
Dec. 2014	Diagnosis to Intervention Part 2	Paducah CSHCN	Michelle Antle
Dec. 2014	Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis in the Classroom	Hancock County Schools Training Site	Michelle Antle
Dec. 2014	KATC and Resources	Protection and Permanency Louisville, KY	Heidi Cooley-Cook
Dec. 2014	Autism 101	YMCA Staff, Southwest YMCA Louisville, KY	Heidi Cooley-Cook
Dec. 2014	Behavior Management and Autism	Cadre, South Eastern South Central Educational Cooperative Members London, KY,	Laura Ferguson
Dec. 2014	What is Autism?	Family Resource Youth Service Center Regional Meeting General Butler State Park	Laura Ferguson
Dec. 2014	Introduction to Cognitive Behavioral Interventions	Cadre, Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative Lexington, KY	Laura Ferguson
Dec. 2014	Behavior Strategies that Work	Barboursville Independent Schools Barboursville, KY	Kim Howard
Jan. 2015	Diagnosis, Characteristics, Understanding, & Learning to Accommodate for Sensory Integration Difficulties	Bowling Green CSHCN	Michelle Antle
Jan. 2015	KATC as a Resource	REACH-IN Support Group	Heidi Cooley-Cook
Jan. 2015	Understanding the VB MAPP	Northern KY Educational Cooperative Cold Springs, KY	Laura Ferguson
Jan. 2015	Behavior Management in the Home	Frankfort Family Support Group Frankfort, KY	Laura Ferguson
Feb. 2015	Exercise for Individuals with ASD	KATC Webinar	Michelle Antle
Feb. 2015	Reinforce as an Evidence-based Practices	GRREC Members School Psychologist Network	Michelle Antle
Feb. 2015	Safety for School, Home, & Community	Ludlow Parent Support Group & Ludlow First Responders Ludlow, KY	Heidi Cooley-Cook John Gosper Patrick Branham

Feb. 2015	What is Autism	Family Resource Youth Service Center Regional Meeting Frankfort, KY	Laura Ferguson
Feb. 2015	Understanding Autism and Strategies	CCSHCN Lexington, KY	Laura Ferguson
Feb. 2015	What is Autism	Henry County Middle School New Castle, KY	Laura Ferguson
Feb. 2015	Understanding the VB MAPP	Cadre GRREC Members Bowling Green, KY	Laura Ferguson
March 2015	Social Stories for Students with ASD	McCracken County Schools Training Site Staff and Parents	Michelle Antle
March 2015	Evidenced-based Practices in the Schools	Hart County "Hart of Autism" Parent Support Group	Michelle Antle
March 2015	Cognitive Behavior Intervention	Cadre GRREC Members	Michelle Antle
March 2015	Beyond Autism 101	Kids Are Worth It! Conference Morehead, KY	Heidi Cooley-Cook
March 2015	Understanding Autism	University of Louisville Inclusion Forum Louisville, KY	Laura Ferguson
March 2015	Understanding Challenging Behavior in Children with Autism	Cumberland Falls State Park, Corbin, KY	Laura Ferguson Kim Howard
March 2015	Including Individuals with Autism in the General Education Setting	KATC Webinar	Laura Ferguson
March 2015	Teaching Communication Throughout the Day	KATC Webinar	Laura Ferguson
March 2015	Understanding the VB- MAPP	Western KY Educational Cooperative KY Dam State Park,	Laura Ferguson
March 2015	Services & Supports Available for Individuals Autism	Kids Are Worth It! Conference Morehead, KY	Heidi Cooley-Cool

April 2015	Feeding Difficulties and Interventions to Help	ARC of Barren County	Michelle Antle
April 2015	Using Visual Supports with Individuals with ASD	KY-STEP	Michelle Antle
April 2015	Stress Relieving Strategies	Northern Kentucky Support Group Florence, KY	Heidi Cooley-Cook
April 2015	After the School Bus: Opportunities for Adults with Autism	Lebanon Junction Elementary, Lebanon Junction, KY	Heidi Cooley-Cook

April 2015	Systematic Instruction	Western KY Educational Cooperative Gilbertsville, KY	Laura Ferguson
April 2015	Understanding Autism	CCSHCN Somerset, KY	Laura Ferguson
April 2015	Understanding Challenging Behaviors in Children with Autism	Blue Licks State Park Carlisle, KY	Laura Ferguson Kim Howard
April 2015	Teaching Communication to Students with Autism	Kentucky Head Start Conference Lexington, KY	Laura Ferguson
April 2015	Including Individuals with Autism in the General Education Setting	Pulaski Board of Education Somerset, KY	Laura Ferguson
May 2015	Autism Characteristics and Introduction to Evidence Based Practices for the Dentistry Setting	SKY Pediatric Dental Staff	Michelle Antle
May 2015	Question and Answer Panel for Parent Support Group in Regards to Accessing Services in Schools	ARC of Barren County	Michelle Antle
May 2015	Autism Characteristics in the Classroom: How I can intervene?	All staff at Graves County Central Elementary School	Michelle Antle
May 2015	Autism Characteristics 101	Caldwell County Middle School	Michelle Antle and Sherida Gentry
May 2015	Autism in the Educational Setting: Eligibility to Intervention	Western Kentucky University School Psychologist Training Program	Michelle Antle
May 2015	Behavior Management in Young Children with Autism	Infant Toddler Institute Paintsville, KY	Laura Ferguson
May 2015	Training Site Initiative	Owen County Schools Owenton, KY	Laura Ferguson
May 2015	Understanding Autism and Interventions	Passport Health Louisville, KY	Laura Ferguson
May 2015	Behavior Management in the Home	Summit, Barren River State Park Lucas, KY	Laura Ferguson

May 2015	Meeting Communication and Socialization Needs of Young Children with Autism	Pike County Schools Pikeville, KY	Kim Howard
June 2015	Autism 101	Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Staff	Michelle Antle
June 2015	Anxiety in the Classroom: How to Recognize and Positively Intervene	Council for Children with Behavior Disorders Institute, Louisville, KY	Michelle Antle
June 2015	Autism 101	System of Care Academy Lexington, KY	Heidi Cooley-Cook
June 2015	Including Individuals with Autism in the General Education Setting	Archdiocese Louisville, KY	Laura Ferguson Kim Howard
June 2015	Using ABA in the Classroom Setting	Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative Lexington, KY	Laura Ferguson
June 2015	Including Individuals with Autism in the General Education Setting	Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative Lexington, KY	Laura Ferguson
June 2015	Increasing Communication in Individuals with Autism	Ready Kids Conference Hopkinsville, KY	Laura Ferguson
June 2015	Behavior Management and Sensory Strategies for Individuals with Autism	Ready Kids Conference Hopkinsville, KY	Laura Ferguson

## COACHING AND SUPPORT

Building Statewide Capacity for Educators to Improve Outcomes for Learners with ASD: Partnership with Kentucky Department of Education, Special Education Cooperatives and Local School Districts

### ASD Partnership Training Sites

KATC works in collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) nine Special Educational Cooperatives at all levels of operation. Cooperatives have the capacity to create and sustain change at the local level and this collaboration is essential to develop and sustain a network of professional learning, training, and coaching to educators. Building upon this relationship, KATC initiated a collaborative workgroup in 2008 to develop a proposal and was subsequently awarded a partnership with the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders. The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders (NPDC on ASD), funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs is a multi-university program that began on July 1, 2007. The center is located at three universities: The University of North Carolina, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of California.

NPDC on ASD provided professional development and technical assistance to help Kentucky promote implementation of evidence-based practices for early identification, intervention and education for children and youth with ASD. These practices should produce the best possible outcomes for families and students with ASD, spanning the age range from infancy to early adulthood (21 years). In addition, the NPDC helped Kentucky establish a problem solving process to develop model sites demonstrating evidence-based practices for ASD and in evaluating and measuring child, family, practitioner and system-level outcomes. The purposes of the project that began in Kentucky in January 2009 were to:

- Increase the number of highly qualified personnel (particularly teachers and practitioners) serving children and youth with ASD in Kentucky
- Establish a sustainable system of professional development in evidence-based practices in ASD
- Provide technical assistance support for early childhood practitioners, educational leaders, teachers and school-based personnel
- Establish training site where pre-service and in-service professionals can observe the implementation of evidence-based practices

During 2014-2015, KATC collaborated with 8 special educational cooperatives in 20 school districts to serve 28 schools with this intense coaching and support model. School personnel in the schools accepted participate in comprehensive training regarding the teaching students with autism. Many more schools apply than KATC has the capacity to serve. KATC Field Training Coordinators (FTC) are assigned to the schools within a specific region, provide the comprehensive trainings, visit each classroom a minimum of 1 time monthly, and provide ongoing technical assistance to the school staff

### Evidence-Based Practices: The Foundation

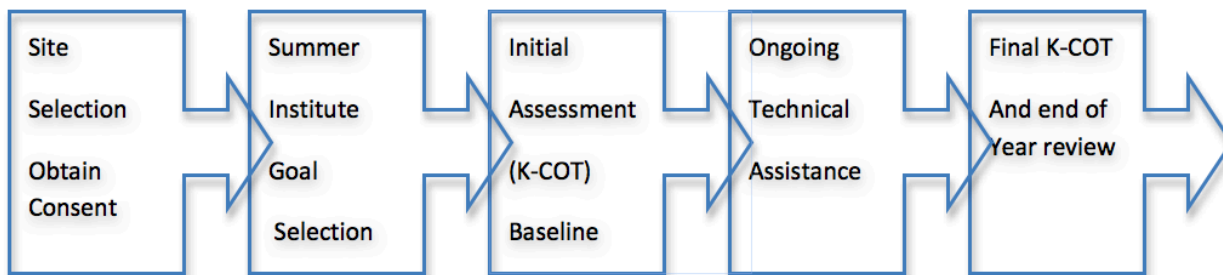
While many interventions for autism exist, only some have been shown to be effective through scientific research. Interventions that researchers have shown to be effective are called evidence-based practices. Several groups have sought to identify evidence-based practices for autism treatment (National

Professional Development Center on Autism-NPDC on ASD, National Autism Center-NAC), The groups' findings overlap significantly and the KATC draws on interventions identified across organizations. One group, the NPDC on ASD, uses rigorous criteria to determine whether a practice is evidence-based. Currently, the Center has identified 27 evidence-based practices. Please note that every identified practice is not necessarily appropriate for every learner. Practices are most effective when carefully matched to a learner's specific needs and characteristics.

To date, the NPDC on ASD has identified 27 practices that meet the above criteria for evidence-based practices for children and youth with autism spectrum disorders. They continue to review the literature for practices that meet their definition. This list was updated by the NPDC in 2014 from 24 evidence-based practices to 27. The practices are:

1. Antecedent-Based Interventions (ABI)
2. Cognitive Behavioral Intervention
3. Differential Reinforcement
4. Discrete Trial Training
5. Exercise
6. Extinction
7. Functional Behavior Assessment
8. Functional Communication Training
9. Modeling
10. Naturalistic Intervention
11. Parent-Implemented Interventions
12. Peer-Mediated Instruction and Intervention
13. Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)
14. Pivotal Response Training
15. Prompting
16. Reinforcement
17. Response Interruption/Redirection
18. Scripting
19. Self-Management
20. Social Narratives
21. Speech Generating Devices/VOCA
22. Structured Play Group
23. Task Analysis
24. Technology-aided Instruction
25. Time Delay
26. Video Modeling
27. Visual Supports

### Overview of Training Site Process:



### Tools developed by the KATC to facilitate technical assistance process for training sites.

#### 1) K-COT (Kentucky Classroom Observation Tool)

This tool was created by the KATC prior to the 2011-2012 school year and updated in 2012-2013 to include the assessment of general education settings. The tool is used to gather program information during the first site visit through direct observation, record review, and interview. The checklist will be completed by KATC staff and discussed with teams at the beginning and end of the school year. The information gathered will help training site teams to collectively determine program goals to target during the year.

## 2) K-COT/S (Kentucky Classroom Observation Tool Self-Assessment)

This version of the K-COT is completed by the school team during the summer training and will reflect their perspective of their strengths and challenges. This completed tool will be used in connection with the completed K-COT to determine program goals and guide professional growth throughout the year.

## 3) TA Contact Form (Technical Assistance Contact Form)

At the completion of each visit, district level and KATC technical assistance providers will complete this form as a summary of their visit. This form will document information regarding progress towards meeting classroom goals and student goals and next steps.

## Special Education Cooperatives

- Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative (CKEC)
- Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC)
- Jefferson County Exceptional Child Education Services (JCPS)
- Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC)
- Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC)
- Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKECS)
- Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative
- Southeast/Southcentral Education Cooperative (SESC)
- West Kentucky Educational Cooperative (WKEC)

## 2014-15 KATC Support to Schools Implementing ASD Partnership Training Sites

School	District	Coop Region
Bardstown Elementary	Bardstown Independent	CKSEC
Scott County 9th Grade School	Scott County	CKSEC
Heartland Elementary	Hardin County	GRREC
Lakewood Elementary	Hardin County	GRREC
Hardinsburg Elementary	Breckinridge County	GRREC
Munfordsville Elementary	Hart County	GRREC
North Hancock Elementary	Hancock County	GRREC
Ohio County High	Ohio County	GRREC
Eastern Elementary	Barren County	GRREC
Straub Elementary	Mason County	KEDC
Russell Primary	Russell Independent	KEDC
Flemingburg Elementary	Fleming County	KEDC
Simons Middle	Fleming County	KEDC
West Carter Middle	Carter County	KEDC
East Carter Middle	Carter County	KEDC
West Whitesburg Elementary	Letcher County	KVEC
Valley Elementary	Pike County	KVEC
Elkhorn Middle	Pike County	KVEC
John's Creek Elementary	Pike County	KVEC
Betsy Lane Elementary	Floyd County	KVEC



South Floyd High School	Floyd County	KVEC
Beechwood Elementary	Beechwood Independent	NKEC
Southern Elementary	Pendleton County	NKEC
South Oldham Middle	Oldham County	OVEC
Harmony Elementary	Oldham County	OVEC
Stanford Elementary	Lincoln County	SESC
Walnut Hill Elementary	Casey County	SESC
Lone Oak Middle	McCracken County	WKSEC

Prior the start of the school year, teams participating in the problem-solving process participated in a specialized Summer Institute to orient the teams to the process and evidence-based practices.

### **Sample goals:**

*Given the verbal directive, picture and proximity prompts to transition E will travel to 1 class (back and forth) independently with 100% accuracy across 3 sessions.*

*Given an array of 5 word cards, C will select the correct word when adult vocally identifies the word with 100% accuracy across 3 consecutive sessions as measured by probe data sheets.*

*Upon arrival at school, T will put her backpack away in her cubby with 2 or fewer verbal or physical prompts 80% of the time, as measured by staff in weekly frequency counts.*

*Given a 2-digit addition problem without regrouping, E will receptively identify by touching or grabbing the correct answer to 3 problems in an array of 4 with 100% accuracy across 3 sessions.*

### **Autism Cadre**

In partnership with Kentucky Department of Education and 9 special educational cooperatives, training and coaching in evidenced-based practices for individuals with autism are trained for local school personnel. Special education cooperatives customize the trainings based on the needs of the school personnel in their respective regions. These trainings are an ongoing follow-up and support to the 164 State school districts in the 9 special education cooperatives that training more than 681 professionals at the inception of this initiative.

In spring of 2009 the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and the Kentucky Autism Training Center (KATC) partnered to establish a statewide autism cadre of approximately 681 members to forward the following goals:

- Provide ongoing training to district level staff on evidence-based practices for students with ASD so that they could provide training at the district level.
- Establish networks of support between professionals from different districts and special education cooperative regions.
- Establish local problem solving teams at the district level across Kentucky.

### **Partnership**

*Kentucky is divided into 9 special education cooperative regions. Complex needs consultants provide technical assistance in each region. KATC works with the complex needs consultants to drive the ASD cadre; the consultants already met several times a year to drive other state initiatives (e.g., alternative assessment, new teacher training). At the district level, representatives from 95% of local districts were identified by the director of special education based on an application process developed by KDE. Participants were selected*

*based on their ability to translate cadre training material back to the local district. Cadre members represent a myriad of roles within a school district: Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, General Education Teachers, Special Education Teachers, Directors of Special Educations, Early Childhood Diagnosticians, Psychologists, Autism Specialists, Consultants, and Pre-school Teachers.*

### **Process**

KATC develops quarterly training materials to be given to the special education co-op consultants. Consultants were grouped into super clusters, containing three to four co-op regions. Super clusters met to clarify content and share resources for training; in some instances consultants provided cross cooperative trainings. KATC attended these meetings in-person or via Skype to clarify training materials upon request. After review of the materials the cooperative consultants delivered a 6-hour training to the district level professionals. Participants received 4 trainings each year for a total of 24 hours of professional development.

### **Content**

KATC developed quarterly training materials (e.g. PowerPoint, group activities, video examples). Topics included: Applied Behavior Analysis, Generalization, Communication. Complex needs consultants were able to add supplementary materials but were asked not to change the KATC slides to maintain the integrity of the training materials.

<b>Session</b>	<b>Content</b>
Module 1	Project Overview, ASD characteristics
Module 2	Functional Behavior Assessment and Preference Assessment
Module 3	Behavioral Intervention
Module 4	Systematic Instruction 1
Module 5	Systematic Instruction 2
Module 6	Communication Instruction 1
Module 7	Communication Instruction 2
Module 8	Asperger Syndrome, Intro to Problem Solving
Module 9	Social Skills
Module 10	Environmental Arrangement
Module 11	Social Skills Part II
Module 12	Coaching and Problem Solving

### **Feedback from Cadre Members**

*The knowledge, expertise, and positive attitude from trainers on ASD strategies and interventions are so useful.*

*The WKSEC staff was excellent in modeling problem solving strategies, especially for student communication training and teaching of replacement behaviors.*

*The materials and trainings help me better serve the autism population in my classroom*

*I am so impressed with the knowledge of the trainers! I have learned so much!*

**District Highlights**

Several districts have reported that cadre members have conducted trainings at the local district level. Districts have reported developing local problem solving teams and using cadre members to address district challenges associated with meeting the needs of students with ASD. Superintendents report that training they once had to secure from outside their district has been replaced by their own district personnel learning the skills they need to better support the needs of their students with ASD.

**KATC Staff**

- R. Larry Taylor, Executive Director
- Michelle Antle, Field Training Coordinator
- Heidi Cooley-Cook, Family Field Training Coordinator
- Laura Ferguson, Field Training Coordinator
- Diandre Glover-Thomas, M.A., Program Coordinator
- Kim Howard, Field Training Coordinator,
- Mike Miller, Field Training Coordinator
- Rob Pennington, Principal Investigator