Teaching the Arts to Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Music, art, theatre, dance, media arts educators, classroom teachers and teaching artists are invited.

Multiple Locations
8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Summer, 2013
Registration Fee: $25
Breakfast and lunch included

Act 48 credit available

The workshop offers a standards-based professional development training for educators and/or teaching artists to improve their skills when teaching the arts to students with ASD pre-K through grade 12.

Each workshop will include:

• An overview of characteristics of Autism, Asperger’s Syndrome and other pervasive Developmental Disabilities;

• Strategies for using Universal Design for learning to allow greater access to the curriculum for children with ASD;

• Strategies for behavior management;

• Best practices in assessment

For information about a workshop near you, contact Gayle Cluck at c-gcluck@pa.gov

Click here for workshop lists
Teaching the Arts to Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Designed for music, art, theatre, dance, media arts educators, classroom teachers and teaching artists

Held at multiple locations
From 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
In Winter & Spring 2014
Registration Fee: $25

The workshop offers a standards-based professional development training for educators and/or teaching artists to improve their skills when teaching the visual and performing arts to students with ASD pre-K through grade 12.

Each workshop will include:

- An overview of the characteristics of Autism, Asperger’s Syndrome and other pervasive Developmental Disabilities;
- Strategies for using Universal Design for Learning to allow greater access to the curriculum for children with ASD;
- Strategies for behavior management;
- Best practices in assessment.

Click here for a list of workshops

For more information about a workshop near you, contact Gayle Cluck at c-gcluck@pa.gov
Arts Integration Strategies to Engage Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Everyday Classroom Settings

Current and future classroom teachers, teaching artists, and other interested educators are invited

Location
Room 126, Cogswell Hall (Music Bldg.)
IUP Main Campus
Indiana, PA

Date/Time/Cost
Saturday, March 8, 2014
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Pre-Registration Fee: $10.00

Act 48 Credit available

Utilizing hands-on art making and movement, the workshop offers standards-based professional development training for students, educators, and/or teaching artists to improve their skills integrating the arts when teaching students with ASD pre-K through grade 12.

Each workshop will include:
• An overview of characteristics of Autism, Asperger’s Syndrome and other pervasive developmental disabilities;
• Strategies for behavior management;
• Various options in assessment

This full-day workshop is presented regionally through the combined efforts of ArtsPath, the arts-in-education program of the Lively Arts in the College of Fine Arts at Indiana University of Pennsylvania; VSA Pennsylvania, the state organization on Arts and Disability; and with financial support provided by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.
**Rebecca Covert** worked as a dramatic play/music teaching artist in Pittsburgh schools for Gateway to the Arts over the past seven years, crafting and teaching workshops that infuse literacy instruction with the arts. Gateway named Rebecca as Hardie Artist of the Year for 2008/2009 for her involvement with their Aesthetic Education program and her work as a Western Pennsylvania Wolf Trap teacher in preschool instruction. Also through Gateway, she develops and leads professional development workshops and visits local libraries and classrooms as a children’s storyteller. Rebecca is also an instructor at the Familylinks Therapeutic Learning Center where she teaches children’s acting and music year-round.

A trained classical and jazz vocalist, she currently performs as a guest soloist with the Eclectic Laboratory Chamber Orchestra and sings a blues/soul set with guitarist, Daniel Burgun. She also starred as “Goody Plenty” in *Amish Burlesque* at numerous theaters around Western PA, including the Pittsburgh CLO Cabaret, Father Ryan Arts Center (Pittsburgh) and the Palace Theatre (Greensburg, PA). Her first full-length, one-woman cabaret entitled “Lady in Flames” debuted at the University of Pittsburgh in July 2013.

In 2010, Rebecca’s son, Jack, was diagnosed with autism. Determined to connect with her nonverbal son, she reconfigured her strengths as an artist and educator to engage children with autism in the classroom setting. She now strives to provide other families of autism with a safe place for their children to make friendships and be themselves through artistic programming. In partnership with the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, the PA Council on the Arts and The Kennedy Center/VSA, Rebecca and visual art teaching artist, Alison Zapata, created and led a professional development workshop designed for educators entitled “Teaching Art to Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.”

Rebecca has a BA in art history/film studies from the University of Pittsburgh and a MS in elementary education from Duquesne University.

**Alison Zapata** has been working as a visual artist and art educator in Pittsburgh for more than fourteen years. She works primarily as a painter with a focus on portraiture, murals, and multi-media collage. Her interest lies in building community and interpersonal relationships through the exploration of art. Her paintings have been featured in Good Housekeeping and Pittsburgh Magazine.

Alison is a teaching artist with the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts’ Artists in Education initiative. Through the exploration of visual art, she works with children diagnosed with autism at Familylinks Therapeutic Learning Center in Pittsburgh. She also works as a teaching artist for Gateway to the Arts, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, and Citiparks. In the summer of 2009, she studied in Rio De Janeiro and Salvador, Brazil as part of the Fulbright Art and Culture Research Abroad Program sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Pittsburgh and the Andy Warhol Museum. Through a grant awarded from the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, in collaboration with the Andy Warhol Museum, Alison created two summer arts programs in Hazelwood, PA.

She has a B.A. in Art Education from Carlow University.
PCA VSA Autism Workshops

Philadelphia Workshop

Harrisburg Workshop

Ridgway Workshop

Allentown Workshop