

What is a “Community of Practice?”

The concept of Communities of Practice was first developed in 1991 by Jean Lave and Etienne Wenger. They saw this process as an opportunity for social learning “that occurs when people have a common interest in some subject or problem collaborate over an extended period to share ideas, find solutions and build innovations.”

This advanced level training focuses on strategies to support families with very young children with ASD in natural environments. Following the conference, Communities of Practice in Autism (CoPA) regional leaders will be trained to lead Communities of Practice in their regions. These CoPAs will meet to further explore the strategies learned at the conference and to help build our system of supports and services for the youngest children with ASD and their families in the Commonwealth. Please consider joining your region’s Community of Practice!



Source: Wikipedia 7/07



VCU

The Partnership for People with Disabilities is a university center for excellence in developmental disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University. VCU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran's status, political affiliation, or disability. If alternative formats of this document are needed, please contact Deana Buck at (804) 827-0198 or (800) 828-1120 (TTY Relay).

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Communities of Practice in Autism

**Advanced level training
focused on strategies to
support families with young
children with ASD in
natural environments**

Sponsored Collaboratively by:

DMHMRSAS, Part C
The Integrated Training Collaborative
The VA Department of Education's Special
Education Instructional Services

Agenda

Monday, September 24, 2007

8:00-9:00	Registration Continental Breakfast
9:00-10:30	Increasing Early Social – Communication Skills
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:00	Replacing Socially-Mediated Challenging Behaviors
12:00-1:00	Buffet Lunch
1:00-2:30	Addressing Sensory Maintained Challenging Behaviors
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-4:30	Naturalistic Intervention Strategies and Progress Monitoring
4:30	Adjourn

Location and Lodging

The conference will be held at the Omni Charlottesville Hotel, 235 W Main Street, Charlottesville, VA 22902. A block of sleeping rooms has been guaranteed until **9/2/07**. Ask for **Virginia Commonwealth University** to receive the rate of \$87.00/single or \$102.00/double plus taxes. Reserve your room TODAY: 1-800-THE OMNI. Room rates are not guaranteed after 9/02/07. Space is EXTREMELY limited.

Who Should Attend

- ◆ Early Intervention Providers
- ◆ System Managers
- ◆ Family Members
- ◆ Early Childhood Educators

Featured Speakers

Maureen Conroy is a Professor in the Department of Special Education and Policy Development at Virginia Commonwealth University. She received her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University with an emphasis in early childhood special education and behavior disorders. Maureen has been in the field of special education for over 25 years as a teacher of young children with disabilities, parent trainer, administrator of early intervention programs, and university faculty member. Her research interests are in the following areas: autism spectrum disorders, assessment and intervention of social skills, functional assessment and analysis of problem behaviors, and early childhood. She currently serves as a consulting editor for a number of professional journals including *Behavior Disorders*, *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders*, *Journal of Positive Behavioral Interventions*, and *Journal of Early Intervention*.

Brian Boyd is currently an Investigator at Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute located at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received his B.S. in Psychology from the College of William and Mary, his M.Ed. in Early Childhood Special Education from the University of Virginia, and his Ph.D. in Special Education from the University of Florida. His research interests include repetitive behaviors in autism, neurocognitive mechanisms underlying those behaviors, and early diagnosis and intervention. He is currently a Co-Principal Investigator on two projects recently funded by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) determining the efficacy of behavioral treatments for young children with autism. He has authored a number of journal articles in the fields of applied behavior analysis and autism. Prior to beginning his research career, Dr. Boyd was a teacher in a demonstration preschool for children with autism.

Share this information with
parents and colleagues.

We hope to see you there!

Communities of Practice in Autism

Conference space is limited to 300 participants.

Each local EI system is entitled to 3 registration slots until **8/31/07**.

Registration fee: \$25.00 No refunds provided!

Regions are encouraged to register as a team to include providers and a family member. Forms may be submitted in one envelope.

Name: _____

Title: _____

I &TC of: _____

E-mail: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Please check if you are a family member:

Please indicate special accommodations required: _____

To pay by credit card, please register online at:

www.vcu.edu/partnership/CoPA

Please mail or fax registration and PO/check to:

VCU/Partnership for People with Disabilities
ATTN: Cheryl Bishop
10 E. Franklin Street, Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23219
FAX: (804) 828-7495

For registration questions, contact:

Cheryl Bishop (804) 828-6947
cebishop@vcu.edu

For additional information, please contact:

Cori Hill (540) 943-6776
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