

Integrated Play Groups® (IPG) Model Training Series

Initial IPG Seminar

Overview

This one-day seminar provides a basic introduction to the principles and practices of the Integrated Play Groups (IPG) model. The IPG model is an evidence-based practice designed to address the unique needs of children on the autism spectrum in the areas of peer socialization, play and imagination, and inclusion in childhood culture. The IPG model provides intensive guidance for children on the autism spectrum (novice players) and neurotypical peers and siblings (expert players) to engage in mutually enjoyed play experiences in natural settings. Extensions of the IPG model incorporate various forms of creative expression - i.e., visual arts, multi-media arts, drama, dance, Yoga - that are culturally valued and of high interest for various age groups (children, teens, adults). This introductory session highlights theory, research and practice using case vignettes to illustrate key concepts and techniques.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will gain foundational knowledge in the following areas:

- Essential role of play for children’s learning, development and sociocultural participation
- Nature of social and symbolic play variations in children on the autism spectrum
- Considerations for designing supportive play environments
- Methods for guiding peer socialization, communication, play and imagination
- Elements of quality inclusive peer play programs

Target Audience

The initial IPG seminar is offered at the introductory level to specialists (e.g., educators, speech language pathologists, psychologists, occupational therapists, behavior interventionists) and non-specialists (e.g., parents, family members, caregivers). This is a lecture style session open to any number participants.

Sample Session Agenda

I. Introduction: IPG Conceptual Foundation

- Nature of play and the autism spectrum
- Play’s prominent role in childhood
- Key features of the IPG model

II. Setting the Stage for Play: IPG Program and Environmental Design

- Gathering and preparing the players
- Preparing the play setting
- Structuring the play session

III. Observing Children at Play: IPG Assessment Methods

- Fundamentals of IPG assessment approach
- IPG Observation Framework
- IPG Assessment Tools

IV. Guided Participation in Play: IPG Intervention Methods

- Nurturing play initiations
- Scaffolding play
- Guiding social communication
- Guiding play in the “ZPD”

V. Wrap Up

Qualifications*

Completion of the IPG Seminar includes a certificate with no qualifications other than as a prerequisite for subsequent IPG model training at the entry, master’s and supervisor levels.

*Qualifications at the entry, master’s and supervisor levels do not include authorization to provide IPG model training of any kind at this time; however, sharing information about the IPG model is permissible and encouraged. Use of the Integrated Play Groups (IPG) trademark name and logo for titles, descriptions of programs and services and other purposes may be authorized upon entering into a formal agreement.