

# Motor Issues in Autism

Anne Buckley-Reen OTR, RYT

## Faculty

**Anne Buckley-Reen, OTR, RYT** is a pediatric occupational therapist and therapeutic yoga instructor with over 30 years of pediatric experience. A researcher, clinician, consultant and program developer, Anne has worked with students with ASD from preschoolers through adult. Anne's popular researched daily movement curriculum "The Get Ready to Learn Program" is widely used in NYC schools as well as nationally and internationally. Join Anne for an exciting NEW 2-day workshop offering strategies that will help you make connections and build skills with some of our most challenging clients.

**Disclosure: Financial:** Anne Buckley-Reen receives a speaking fee from Education Resources for this course. **Non-Financial:** She has no non-financial relationships to disclose.

## Audience

This course is relevant for Physical Therapists, Physical Therapist Assistants, Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants working with children on the autism spectrum from pre-school to school age.

## About This Live Webinar

Learn to expand engagement in clients with ASD and address self-stimulatory behaviors, perseveration, and reactive or self-directed behaviors. Using evidence-based research, participants will learn how to engage children with ASD and treat fine motor, gross motor, and oral motor challenges. This exciting course teaches participants how to more effectively expand engagement in clients with ASD while answering questions about self-stimulatory behaviors, perseveration, and reactive or self-directed behaviors.

Do you work with students on the spectrum? Are some of your clients "self directed" and/or "in their own world?" Are you dealing with reactive behaviors? Do you have difficulty getting engagement-making a connection? Do you find play and motor skills limited and or perseverative? Encountering self-stimulatory behaviors and not sure what they mean? Do your students just want to watch? Are you exhausted at the end of some sessions?

Join us as we focus on motor skills in ASD and evidence-based interventions that address motor as well as coexisting social and communicative challenges. For decades, autism has been defined as a triad of deficits in social interaction, communication, and imaginative play. Children on the autistic spectrum may have difficulties with posture, coordination, and motor planning. Recent studies show that movement difficulties are common in children on the autistic spectrum, and poor motor skills are associated with greater difficulties with social communication. Participation in activities, building relationships, and reciprocal communication require neurological systems to coordinate and synchronize the processing, organization, and regulation of sensory information and movement. Differences in body awareness and motor planning can result in avoidance of, or poor response to, many activities that support motor development. Anxiety, self-regulatory and sensory processing challenges often respond to movement activities which enhance brain-body feedback for successful and organized engagement.

## Learning Objectives

- Identify at least three common motor challenges in children with ASD.
- Describe the relationship between sensory processing, body awareness, and atypical motor performance.
- Identify and apply two motor activities (based on research) to support engagement and motor skills development.
- Describe the movement feedback challenges in ASD.
- Identify and apply at least two preparatory routines to address fear and withdrawal from motor activities.

## Schedule – Day 1 9:40 am - 5:00 pm EST (US)

- 9:40–10:00 Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
- 10:00am-1:30 **Introduction**  
ASD Defined  
Brain-Body Challenges for Children on the Spectrum
- Neurological and motor development variations in ASD - the cerebellum and beyond (Including Nutritional impact on motor development)
- Developmental Foundations for Motor Skills:*
- Developmental Clues- Ages, Stages and Activities
  - Clinical Observations - Gross, Fine and Perceptual Motor Milestones
- Sensory- Motor System Overview
- Body Awareness and Body Scheme - The “Map of Me”
- 1:30-2:00pm **Lunch**
- 2:00-5:00pm Sensory- Motor System Overview (cont.)
- Body Awareness, The sensory system and atypical motor patterns
  - **LAB:** Introduction to basic body awareness activities
  - Stress/motor connection in ASD
  - Self stimulatory motor behaviors: when and why
  - Atypical motor patterns and performance
- Gross Motor Challenges Including
- Motor immaturity
  - Balance
  - Coordination
  - Walking/ Running: Gait deviations in ASD
  - Stopping or Starting
  - Perseverative movements

*\*Two (2) 15-minute breaks will be scheduled each day\**

## Schedule – Day 2 9:40 am - 5:00 pm EST (US)

- 9:40–10:00 Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
- 9:40–10:00 Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
- 10:00am-1:30 Therapeutic Tools, Environments and Presence  
Evidence Based Physical Activity Interventions
- Praxis/motor planning
  - The single channel processor
    - Learning in steps
    - Modelling and mirroring
    - The power of repetition
  - Ideation- strategies and supports- using visuals- the when, where, how and why
  - Initiation- getting started
  - Therapeutic use of music to facilitate movement organization
  - Frequency, intensity and duration of interventions to “rewire” and enhance the body-brain connection
- 1:30-2:00pm **Lunch**
- 2:00- 5:00pm Expanding Motor Schemes/Building Skills  
Sequencing - one step at a time
- Timing and rhythm - using sound and music to organize movement and breath
  - Feedback - enhancing awareness- what do I feel?
  - Feed-forward- anticipating next steps
    - accessing motor memory
- Therapeutic Environments, Tools and Presence
- Treatment session sample
  - **LAB:** Expanding movement and motor skills in the classroom, the home and the community
  - Perceptual motor/ fine motor skill development

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## Credits

This course meets the criteria for 12 contact hours (1.2) CEUs, Intermediate Level.



Education Resources Inc. is an AOTA Approved Provider of professional development. Course approval ID#04292. This Distance Learning-Interactive course is offered at 12 contact hours 1.2 CEUs. (Intermediate level, OT Service Delivery). AOTA does not endorse specific course content, products, or clinical procedures.

This course can be used toward your NBCOT renewal requirements for 12 units.

Approved provider of the **FL** Board of Occupational Therapy-CE Broker – 14 hrs. This course meets the approval of the **TX** Board of OT Examiners.

Application has been made to the **FL** Physical Therapy Association for 14 continuing education contact hours.

Approved by the **MD** Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

Approved by the **MN** Board of Physical Therapy.

Approved by the **NJ** Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

Approved sponsor by the State of **IL** Department of Financial and Professional Regulation for Physical Therapy for 14 contact hours.

Application has been made to **Illinois** EI Training Program.

Approved provider by the **NY** State Board of Physical Therapy for 14 contact hours (1.4 CEUs).

Education Resources, Inc. is an approved provider for Physical Therapy CEUs in the following states: **CA, NM, OK and TX**.

The following state boards of physical therapy accept other states' approval: **AK, AR, AZ, DC, DE, GA, HI, ID, IN, KS, KY, MA, MI, MO, MS, NC, OR, PA, RI, SC, UT, VA, VT, WI, WY**. The following state boards of physical therapy either do not require course pre-approval or do not require CEUs for re-licensure: **AL, CO, CT, IA, ME, MT, NE, ND, NH, SD, WA**.

12 hours of this course qualify towards the discipline-specific hours for the 20-hour requirement for NDTA re-certification. They do NOT qualify towards the 8-hour NDTA

Instructor requirement for re-certification. Education Resources, Inc. 266 Main St, Medfield, MA 02052. Please contact us with any special needs requests:

[info@educationresourcesinc.com](mailto:info@educationresourcesinc.com) or 800-487-6530.

## WEBINAR DATES AND TIMES

March 5 and 6, 2026

9:40 am EST • 8:40 am CST • 7:40 am MST • 6:40 am PST (US)

Registration is for both days. Zoom log-in instructions and course materials will be emailed/added to your ERI account 5-7 days prior to the first date of the Webinar.



\$389 fee. **LIMITED ENROLLMENT** Cancellation will be accepted until 14 days prior to the start date of the course, minus a \$75 Administration Fee. There will be NO REFUNDS after this 14-day deadline.

We encourage you to register online!

### WEBINAR: Motor Issues in Autism – Anne Buckley-Reen

**March 5 and 6, 2026**

#### Course Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Needed in the event of an emergency scheduling change

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clearly print your email address for course confirmation

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How did you learn of this course? \_\_\_\_\_

Education Resources reserves the right to cancel any course due to insufficient registration or extenuating circumstances. We are not responsible for any expenses incurred by participants if the course must be cancelled.

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