

Professor Sally Rogers

from the M.I.N.D. Institute, UC Davis, USA *introduces*

The Early Start Denver Model: *Early Intervention for very young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*

INTRODUCTORY FORUM

**Tuesday 24
February
2009**

8.30am—4.30pm

Melbourne
Convention &
Exhibition Centre
2 Clarendon Street
Southbank,
Melbourne Victoria,
Australia

Registration: 8.30am

*The day's program will run
from*

9am—4.30pm

*Registration includes morning
and afternoon refreshments
and a light lunch.*



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Cost per person:
**\$150 for Family members,
Carers and
full time Students**
\$200 for professionals
All prices include GST

**Bookings will close on
13 February 2009
or when the session is fully
booked.**

Introductory Forum Description:

The course will describe the theoretical and empirical framework, curriculum and teaching principles of the Early Start Denver Model, a developmental, behavioral and relationship-based intervention program for infants and toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorder, ages 12-60 months. Specific teaching topics will address how to: (a) administer and complete a developmental assessment of children's skill levels; (b) develop individualised, developmentally-appropriate teaching objectives; (c) implement the ESDM teaching practices and fidelity system to evaluate technique use; and (d) maintain data management and address poor or limited child progress, when needed.

Introductory Learning Objectives:

At the end of the introductory workshop, participants should be able to: (a) discuss the origins, scientific framework and teaching practices of the Early Start Denver Model; (b) utilise a systematic curriculum aimed at developing an individualised and comprehensive intervention program; and (c) implement a defined set of teaching practices to be integrated during daily life routines for promoting child learning across multiple areas of development.

**Book online at
www.latrobe.edu.au/otarc/SRbooking**

Confirmation of your registration (tax receipt / ticket) will be emailed or posted to you.

The Early Start Denver Model

Young children learn as much and as fast as they do because their experiences in the world are “scaffolded” by the important people in their lives. Autism impedes this process.

Children with autism

- miss learning opportunities through watching
- have difficulty learning from communications
- have difficulty imitating others and miss opportunities to learn by copying.
- are not as flexible in their play skills and this limits their learning.
- may not find social experiences inherently rewarding which can result in reduced time in interactions of all sorts.

Since interactions are a primary learning opportunity for toddlers, fewer interactions mean fewer learning opportunities. Young children with autism have a number of developmental delays in many areas by the time they reach the toddler period, and these are the targets of treatment in the Early Start Denver Method. Therapists / parents are taught multiple teaching tactics that are associated with growth in the infant's social communication behaviours. Improvements are also noted with respect to the severity of behavioural indicators related to autism between 18 and 24 months of age. This is an intervention model that will equip therapists / parents with the necessary intervention skills to engage, communicate with, and teach very young children with or at risk for autism.



Professor Sally Rogers

Sally J. Rogers is a developmental psychologist and a Professor of Psychiatry at the M.I.N.D Institute, University of California Davis where she specialises in conducting research into autism and other developmental disorders, especially involving very young children and their families. Dr. Rogers is the principal investigator of one of the new NIMH/NICHHD Autism Centers of Excellence network projects studying treatment of infants and toddlers with autism. She heads a training program for postdoctoral researchers and lectures internationally on developmental and treatment related topics in autism. She has written extensively in her field, authoring well over 100 articles and books on autism and related topics. Dr. Rogers serves on the editorial board of many publications, including the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, Topics in Early Childhood Special Education, and Infants and Young Children. She is the associate editor of *Autism Research* and the current president of the International Society for Autism Research.

In addition to research, she is also a clinician, providing evaluation, treatment, and consultation to children and adults with autism and their families. In the last ten years she has worked closely with public school districts to incorporate best practices in autism into inclusive educational programs for children with autism and is currently working on projects that examine the infant autism phenotype with Dr. Sally Ozonoff and Dr. Marian Sigman, and developing infant/toddler treatments in collaboration with Dr. Geraldine Dawson at the University of Washington.

Professor Rogers' team



Dr. Cynthia Zierhut

Dr Cynthia Zierhut is a Licensed Clinical and Developmental Psychologist specialising in the early identification and treatment of children with Autism Spectrum

Disorders and their families.

Dr Zierhut received her doctoral degree at the University of California of Los Angeles where her research focused on styles of play between parents and their very young children with Autism and the promotion of language and social development. Dr Zierhut is the Treatment Coordinator on the NIMH funded Autism Center of Excellence project lead by Dr Rogers. This study is a randomised control trial and multisite project examining the efficacy of the Early Start Denver Model as a treatment approach with children with Autism aged 12-24 months.



Dr. Laurie Vismara

Dr Laurie Vismara is an educational psychologist and certified behavior analyst who specialises in conducting treatment research with young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families. Dr Vismara received her degree from the University of

California, Santa Barbara where she studied with Drs Robert and Lynn Koegel at the Koegel Autism Center. She received extensive clinical experience in implementing Pivotal Response Training in both school and home-based intervention programs for children with ASD. Dr Vismara is a researcher at the UC Davis M.I.N.D. Institute working with Dr Rogers on:

- 1) the early signs of Autism Spectrum Disorders in high-risk infants;
- 2) developing a parent education model for immediate provision of intervention services for diagnosed or at-risk infants and toddlers; and
- 3) examining delivery methods and teaching strategies for dissemination of evidence-based intervention models to community early intervention providers.



- ◆ A Concession Registration is available for Families and Carers and Full Time Students—cost is \$150. The Regular Registration—for professionals—costs \$200.
- ◆ Registration prior to the session is essential – there will be no tickets sold or payments accepted on the day. Once your registration has been processed you will receive a printed ticket or tickets by email or post. Tickets must be presented on the day to gain admission to the session. A Tax Invoice (receipt) will also be sent with your ticket(s). NOTE for online registrations—please print the automated confirmation at the time you submit your payment details—you will also receive a Tax Invoice & ticket by email.
- ◆ Families and Carers in Victoria may be able to get some funding to help cover the cost of registration via their ECIS or Disability flexible support package – please put in a request to your case manager as soon as possible.
- ◆ A Certificate of Attendance will be available on request – please email otarc@latrobe.edu.au with each name and a contact email address – a certificate will be emailed out after the session.
- ◆ The registration fee includes refreshments during breaks and a light lunch – please indicate any dietary requirements below.
- ◆ PLEASE NOTE: The registration period is short and there are limited places available. Bookings will close when the session is booked out OR by Close Of Business on Friday 13 February. A FULLY BOOKED notice will be placed on the OTARC website should the session be booked out prior to the closing date.
- ◆ Cancellation Policy: Refunds will be granted less a \$20 per registration processing fee provided you notify OTARC in writing (POST or EMAIL) no later than Friday 20 February. Registration is transferable to another person if you find you are unable to attend. We are sorry but no cancellation can be accepted after the 20th.

HOW TO REGISTER

- ◆ ONLINE—go to the online form [here](#) to make individual registrations using your credit card.
- ◆ POSTAL—use this form to make individual or group registrations and post to the address below. Cheques or Money Orders should be made payable to La Trobe University. Credit card payments can be made using Mastercard or Visa.
- ◆ For Schools & Agencies – if you require a TAX INVOICE prior to payment please post a Purchase Order to the address below, or fax to (03) 9479 1956 with a completed registration form. We will send you a Tax Invoice so you can arrange payment to confirm the registrations.

TAX INVOICE – Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre – ABN 64 804 735 113 (all registration fees are inclusive of GST)

CONTACT DETAILS (of person who will be the contact for this registration—we do not need the names of those attending)

Name _____ Daytime Phone No (_____) _____

Organisation (if applicable) _____

Postal Address _____ Post Code _____

Email Address _____@_____

Please insert the number of tickets required and the total in the appropriate box/es			SUB TOTALS
Concession	Parents, Carers & Full Time Students*	@ \$150 each	\$
Regular	Professionals	@ \$200 each	\$
GRAND TOTAL PAYABLE			\$

Full Time Students—please insert the name of your institution and your Student ID Card Number here:

PAYMENT DETAILS—please tick the appropriate box

I have enclosed a cheque or money order (payable to La Trobe University) OR

I am paying by Credit Card: Name on Card: _____ Expiry Date ____/____/____

Visa Mastercard (please circle) Card Number _____/_____/_____/_____

Signature: _____ OR

I have attached a school/agency Purchase Order for the above registrations – please forward a Tax Invoice for payment.

Special Dietary requirements – to assist with catering please insert the number of persons in the applicable boxes

- vegetarian gluten free casein free other _____

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