



Happy New Year and Invitation to the Foundations of Autism Training

Dear All,

The TASFA-EDSI Special Education team would like to wish you a happy, prosperous, and healthy Ethiopian New Year 2013 and invites you to participate in the first “Foundations of Autism” free online course, presented in Amharic and English.

This training is designed and delivered by professionals and practitioners from Teach and Serve for Africa - Ethiopian Diaspora Initiative (TASFA-EDSI), Hope for Special Education, Inc., Debela Educational Consultancy (DEC), Reaching Families Advocacy and Support Group (RFASG), and Digital Africa.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) continues to affect many children and families around the world. Support and services are critical at an early stage of children’s development and as they grow into adolescence and adulthood. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), in the United States, “About 1 in 54 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) ...” Although research shows high numbers of cases of Autism in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa, there is no data that shows the actual figure. Hence, the presentation of a paper entitled “Accepting Children on the Autism Spectrum while Using Best Practices in Teaching Children with autism at School and at Home” which took place at the 2019 TASFA/EDSI conference held at the African Union and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This was followed by discussions with the Ministry of Education on the necessity of special education in general and the need for incorporating special educational related policy into the national education framework for Ethiopia.

In the last few years, experts from the above-mentioned teams have been engaged with Ethiopian counterparts to share autism awareness related experiences and propose steps needed to train educators, healthcare workers, families, and policy makers, especially in the area of autism which is a prevalent but least understood issue. Before coming together to develop this historic course, Mrs. Carnette Debela, Mrs. Aida Amare, Ms. Sharon Floyd, and Professor Achamyeleh Debela visited Ethiopia with their

respective groups to assess the situation and discuss possible ways to enhance the national policy. This course, therefore is the result of their assessment.

The target groups for this program are parents, community organizers, educators, healthcare workers, researchers, policymakers and faith leaders. The training will be provided from October 11 to December 12, 2020 and those interested in participating should register by going to the following [registration page](#). The deadline for registration is October 18, 2020.

### Course Syllabus

Module 0: Course Orientation

Module 1: Foundational Concepts of Autism

Module 2: Autism and Comorbidities

Module 3: Autism Spectrum Disorder - The Framework Part One

Module 4: Autism Spectrum Disorder - The Framework Part Two

Module 5: Placement in an Educational Setting, Social and Cultural Implications of Autism, the impact of faith and religion on autism

Module 6: Transitioning to Adult Life with ASD

Module 7: Course Summary and Reflections

Module 8: Lessons Learned and Best Practices

We look forward to a new year filled with opportunities to build a strong relationship with professionals in government, private, and other organizations. Once again, we wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!

Regards,

TASFA - Special Education Team