Course Director

Cari Ebert, MS, CCC-SLP is a pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist in private practice in the Kansas City, MO area. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Iowa in 1993 and her Master of Science degree from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1995. Ms. Ebert is married and has three children of her own. Ms. Ebert found her niche working exclusively with young children ages birth to five and their families. She firmly believes that early intervention is the key to future success and, therefore, dedicates her professional career to helping young children achieve their maximum potential with speech, language, and social development. Ms. Ebert provides support to families in her community in several different ways. She helped launch the special needs ministry program at her church, she offers a monthly support group for families of children with special needs, and she established a preschool alternative for young children with speech and language delays. Ms. Ebert has the gift of gab and gets paid to do what she loves...TALK! She has an energetic personality and this translates to a high-energy speaking style. She will motivate you to love your job and love even your most challenging clients by exposing you to fun and effective therapy solutions.

Disclosure:
Financial – Receives a speaking honorarium from Cross Country Education
Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationships exist
ESU #16 is using SE-CIP Grant dollars to provide this training.

Course Content

Overview of Play
- Definitions of play
- Common societal myths about learning and play
- Benefits of play
- Connection between neuroscience and play

Types of Play
- Active play vs. passive entertainment
- Child-directed play vs. adult-directed play
- Structured play vs. free play
- Object play vs. social play

Toys—Tools for Learning
- Why toys are important
- Criterion for choosing a good toy
- Toy storage
- Toy rotation

Play-Based Assessment
- Evaluation vs. assessment
- Traditional vs. play-based assessment
- Play-based assessment protocol

Play-Based Therapy
- Recognizing the value of play in early intervention
- Play as the foundation for learning
- Using what is available in the natural environment
- Keeping therapy natural
- Play with a purpose
- Negative impacts on play

Early Intervention and Family Involvement
- Therapy vs. intervention
- Empowering families
- Enhancing parent/child interactions
- Parent coaching

Play and Development
- Play and physical development
- Play and social-emotional development
- Play and communication development
- Play and cognitive development

Natural Activities to Promote Development in the Home
- Activities in the kitchen
- Activities in the bathroom
- Activities in the bedroom
- Activities in the family room
- Activities in the car
- Activities in the yard
Effective play therapy strategies for enhancing development in early intervention settings

Do you recognize the power play can have in your therapeutic practice? Play is a powerful vehicle for learning. Creating effective play-based therapy sessions in early intervention requires creativity, flexibility, and an understanding of how play impacts development. Young children learn best through play that is relevant and meaningful to their lives, not through direct instruction. Often times, therapy can become too rigid and too much about task completion and not enough about play. Professionals who work with very young children must understand and respect the power of play in a child’s development.

This one-day seminar provides a fresh approach to working with the birth to three population that promotes cognitive, physical, social-emotional, and language development in a natural, non-therapeutic manner. This seminar teaches clinically-relevant ideas and activities using materials in the natural environment to create fun and effective learning opportunities. There’s more to therapy than puzzles and shape sorters! Therapists and educators gain more insight as to how play has changed over the years as a result of technology. Regardless of where a child receives the direct therapy (home vs. center), families and caregivers need to be an integral part of the intervention process when working with the birth to three population in order to maximize each child’s potential. Clinicians can empower caregivers by embedding intervention into functional contexts that naturally occur throughout the day.
Continuing Education Credit

Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants:

Cross Country Education is an AOTA Approved Provider of continuing education. This course is offered for .6 AOTA CEUs. The assignment of AOTA CEUs does not imply endorsement of specific course content, products, or clinical procedures by AOTA. AOTA Educational level Introductory, Category 1: Domain of OT, 2: Occupational Therapy Process.

Speech-Language Pathologists:

This course is offered up to .6 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level; Professional area).

Physical Therapists: This educational offering qualifies for 6 continuing education hours as required by may national, state, and local licensing boards and professional organizations. Save your course outline and certification of completion, and contact your own board or organization for specific filing requirements.

Educators: This educational offering may qualify toward your professional development requirement. The educational offering consists of 6 clock hours. Use this information and your board rules and regulations to calculate professional development/continuing education credit.

All professionals: In order to process continuing education, please bring the appropriate license/certification number to the seminar.

Who Should Attend
Professionals working in early intervention including:
- Speech-Language Pathologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Occupational Therapy Assistants
- Physical Therapists
- Early Childhood Special Education Teachers
- Early Childhood Staff

Amended certificates: Please note that the credit hours listed above are offered by Cross Country Education and/or boards/associations for a full day’s attendance. In the event of late arrival and/or early departure, amended certificates indicating the actual number of credit hours earned will be provided upon calling Cross Country Education.

ADA: If you require ADA accommodations, please contact ESU #16 at least two weeks before the seminar date so that arrangements can be made.

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Confirmations & Cancellations

Confirmations of registration are sent via email shortly after registering on-line. If you have not received a confirmation, you may call our office at 308-284-8481 to verify registration.

If you register on-line and need to cancel your registration please call our office at 308-284-8481 so you or your district are not billed for the training.

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