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# **BACK TO THE BASICS: Autism and Neurodiversity**

## **SPEAKER: KELSIE BACON, LCSW-S, RPT**

**May 8, 2024 | 11:00 am - 2:15 pm Eastern Time**

**ZOOM - INTERACTIVE WEBINAR**

<b>PACIFIC</b>	<b>MOUNTAIN</b>	<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>EASTERN</b>
Start Time: 8 am	Start Time: 9 am	Start Time: 10 am	Start Time: 11 am

*This Webinar will replay as a recording on Saturday, May 11, 2024 beginning at 11am Eastern Time. This is not a recording that can be downloaded and replayed at your own pace. All registered attendees will receive a link to the live webinar and a link to the recording replay on Saturday. Full attendance will be taken during the replay and will still qualify you for a certificate of attendance and other professional development opportunities listed. "Live" Q&A feature with the speaker will not be available, however you will have the ability to use "chat" feature to interact with other participants. Same registration process for both the live and the recording replay.*

The most recent data gathered by the CDC in 2018 reports that 1 in 44 children are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). With a statistic of 241% higher in baseline since 2000, autism is one of the most talked about and sought-out training topics in mental and behavioral health fields. Currently, there is controversy as to whether autism should be viewed as a disability or a normal neurological difference. In this 3-hour webinar, a multiply neurodivergent presenter will review the medical model of disability criteria for ASD while also identifying the social model of disabilities views on autism. Participants will explore the neurodiversity movement, neurodiversity-affirming language, the importance of using identity-first language, and strengths associated with being autistic. Additionally, this webinar will review autism and intersectionality and its impacts on receiving an autism diagnosis. Co-occurring conditions associated with autism will be explored as well as the impact of camouflaging on autistic individuals. This live webinar will utilize research and the presenter's lived experiences as a member of the autistic community. Participants will have the opportunity to participate in Q-and-A sessions to deepen the material being presented.

### **LEARNER OBJECTIVES:**

1. Attendees will be able to identify the medical model's DSM-5 medical criteria for autism spectrum disorder and the social model of disability's view on autism.
2. Attendees will be able to identify neurodiversity-affirming language, identity-first language, and strengths associated with being autistic.
3. Attendees will be able to identify 3-5 common co-occurring diagnoses associated with autism and the role camouflaging plays in the mental health of autistic individuals.

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### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Special Education teachers, Speech-Language Therapists, OTs, counselors, general education teachers, administrators, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, PTs, principals, nurses, parents, and anyone who works with someone on the autism spectrum, ADHD, executive functioning difficulties, or other neurodivergent learning needs. This conference is open to anyone who wishes to attend and will cover content applicable for Preschool - Grade 12.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

*(All times are Eastern Time)*

- 11:00 am - 12:30 pm Autism (Medical Model, Social Model, Neurodiversity-affirming language)  
Autism and Intersectionality (Gender, Sexuality, Race and Ethnicity , Geographical Location and Culture, Socioeconomic Status/Social Class)
- 12:30 pm - 12:45 pm **Break**
- 12:45 pm - 1:00 pm Q & A
- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Autism and Mental Health (Cooccurring Disorders, Non-suicidal Self-Harming Behaviors, Autism and Suicidality)  
Camouflaging in Autism (Making, Compensation, Assimilation)
- 2:00 pm - 2:15 pm Q & A



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**KELSIE BACON, LCSW-S, RPT**

**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY**

Kelsie Bacon is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Registered Play Therapist. She is a clinical therapist and supervisor at The Treehouse in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Kelsie is multiply neurodivergent and specializes in working with children, adolescents, and families, including working with autistic children, neurodivergent children, and those diagnosed with ADHD and other developmental disabilities. She is certified in Autplay Therapy, level 1 and 2 sand tray trained, Level 3 OCN London accredited in Supporting Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults with Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA), and has her Down Syndrome Awareness Diploma. Kelsie is an integrative and prescriptive play therapist drawing from theories and modalities such as Cognitive Behavioral Play Therapy, Child-Centered Play Therapy, Experiential Play Therapy, Theraplay, Adlerian Play Therapy, Attachment theory, Sand tray, Mindfulness, Art, and DIR Floortime.

Kelsie has given national and international presentations on working with neurodivergent populations using play therapy. Kelsie is passionate about providing support and consultation to individuals, families, and therapists regarding PDA characteristics and strategies. She is a published author and co-authored the book *Supporting Autistic Ava*, with Lynn Louse Wonders. She was a guest on the Neurodiversity podcast where she spoke on depression and suicide in the neurodivergent community. She is a current board member of the Association for Play Therapy, New Mexico Branch, and is the current secretary for the Child Counseling Center and Play Therapy Institute of New Mexico board. Kelsie is a current participant in the 2023 Association of Play Therapy Leadership Academy.

*Disclosures:*

*Financial: Kelsie Bacon, LCSW-R, RPT receives an honorarium for her presentation with AEP Connections. Kelsie is on staff at The Treehouse.*

*There are no reported conflicts of interest, financial, or non-financial relationships regarding this presentation.*

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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERED:**

1. **CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE** 3.0 clock hours for the day. Attendance will be confirmed via Zoom log in/log out.
2. **NBCC** AEP Connections, LLC has been approved as an NBCC-Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 7173. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. AEP Connections, LLC is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs. This workshop offers 3.0 NBCC clock hours.
3. **ASWB** AEP Connections, LLC, #1332, is approved as an ACE provider to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. ACE provider approval period: 1/27/2022- 1/27/2025. Social workers completing this course receive 3.0 continuing education credits. Full attendance, a course evaluation and an additional post test is required for satisfactory completion.
4. **AOTA** - AEP Connections, LLC is an AOTA Approved Provider of professional development. Course approval ID 07293. This distance learning – interactive is offered for up to .3CEUs (3.0 contact hours). Introductory, OT Service Delivery. AOTA does not endorse specific course content, products, or clinical procedures. A course evaluation with additional post test questions is required for satisfactory completion.
5. **ASHA** - Provider approval and use of the Brand Block does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures. Full attendance and a course evaluation are required.
6. **NASP** - AEP Connections is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists to offer continuing education for school psychologists. AEP Connections maintains responsibility for the program. NASP Approved Provider #1165. A code to access the course evaluation will be provided in segments throughout the webinar, to ensure full participation. Full attendance and a course evaluation is required for satisfactory completion.
7. **NASW** - This program is Approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval #886925205-8882) for 3 continuing education contact hours. Course approval expiration: 3/31/2025.



**ASHA CE**  
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**REGISTRATION FORM**

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*Confirmations and communications will be sent by email. Please print email clearly.*

**REGISTRATION COST**

**EARLY BIRD \$69**  
*(Register on or before March 29, 2024)*

**REGULAR PRICING \$89**  
*(Register after March 29, 2024)*

*Call for Group Rates (defined as 10 or more, rates decrease as group gets larger)  
Register group by phone or email.*

Early bird registration - \$69       Regular Price registration - \$89      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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