![Charting the Cs — Cooperation . Communication . Collaboration](logo)

Overview of Autism Navigator Participation

Charting the Cs Conference 2025:

To Literacy and Beyond

Cooperation
Communication
Collaboration

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What is Autism Navigator?

Autism Navigator is a web-based instructional program developed by the Florida State University Autism Institute to increase the capacity of primary care, early intervention, and other service providers, as well as families, to better serve young children with or at risk for autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

- Collection of online resources and tools
- The courses are separated based on service delivery, ages and settings.

What is Best Practice in Early Intervention

We know that **best practice** in Early Intervention is the coaching model also known as the Evidence-based Quality Intervention Practices (EQIP) Coaching Model

Why Autism Navigator?
- Evidence-based
- Builds professionals' capacity in Autism Spectrum Disorder and their ability to help families

Let's Break it Down:

Service Delivery:

- Coaching
- Variety of providers based on need
- Observation, support
- Home-based/daycare, natural environments in the community
- Routines, activities, interests

Autism Navigator for Early Intervention Providers: KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

Autism Navigator for Early Intervention Providers: Knowledge & Skills enrollment

Autism Navigator for Early Intervention Providers

- Pilot program through the Minnesota Department of Education
- 14 Zumbro Education District (ZED) providers participating
- 5 units, total of 30 hours of study

Unit 1: Improving Early Detection

Unit 2: Collaborating with Families

Unit 3: Developmental Perspectives

Unit 4: Evidenced-Based Intervention Strategies

Unit 5: Addressing Challenging Behaviors

Real-Life Application of the Course:

- Self-Study
- Partner with co-worker
- Constant conversation in workspace
- Meet as a larger group for questions, feedback, reflection, and real-life application
- Meet quarterly with researchers from the University of Florida

Unit 1: Improving Early Detection

Why early detection is important

Far better impact on: intellectual ability placement for kindergarten

Core diagnostic features of autism:

- Impaired social communication and interaction
- Restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviors

Tools/ Resources:

- Communication and Symbolic Behavior Scales Developmental Profile (CSBS)
- The Systematic Observation of Red Flags of Autism Spectrum Disorder (SORF)

Unit 2: Collaborating with Families

- Central role of the family in the early identification and intervention process

    *This unit helps providers support family's knowledge and impact of ASD

Unit 3: Developmental Perspectives

- Natural Environment: How people and activities help learning

- Developmental Trajectories for: Play, Social Communication, Language, and Emotional Regulation

Unit 4: Evidenced-Based Intervention Strategies

- Intervention outcome priorities in ASD

- What teaches parents?

- How do we coach them?

- Monitoring progress

Unit 5: Addressing Challenging Behaviors

- Understanding the impact that ASD has on a child's responses and relationships resulting in challenging behaviors:

- Deepening your understanding of:

  - core deficits of ASD

  - collaborating with families

  - developmental perspectives

  - Evidence-Based Intervention Strategies

What We Have Found Beneficial During our Course with Autism Navigator:

Conversations Taking Place:

- Understanding

- Large Group

- One-on-One Coaching

- Mentoring

Improvements

What we might do differently…

QUESTIONS????

Resources and References:

- **Autism Navigator:** https://autismnavigator.learnercommunity.com/
- **Baby Navigator:** https://babynavigator.com/why-join-for-baby-navigator/
- **Communication and Symbolic Behaviors Scales Developmental Profile (CSBS)** https://firstwords.fsu.edu/pdf/Checklist_Scoring_Cutoffs.pdf
- **Systematic Observation of Red Flags of Autism Spectrum Disorder (SORF)**
- https://autismnavigator.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/SORF_Manual_V1.pdf
- https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5734914/
- **Social Communication Growth Charts (SCGC)**
- https://babynavigator.com/why-join-for-baby-navigator/

Additional Resources:

- Autism Navigator: Does offer thei18-month-oldnline course for free.

  - ○ **Autism Navigator About Autism in Toddlers**

    - All you need to do is register

- **Baby Navigator:**

  - ○ Free resource for families that are expecting all the way up to an 18-month-old. https://babynavigator.com/why-join-for-baby-navigator/

THANK YOU!

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Statewide Professional Development to Support the Workforce and Low Incidence Disability Areas in the State of Minnesota.