# Workshop: Educational issues for people with Autism

## Prof. Paola Molteni

***WORKSHOP AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The workshop aims to:

– offer an insight into the characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder, in relation to age and types of difficulty;

– provide tools that allow targeted observation of the individual's abilities and environmental and instrumental resources;

– reflect on the strategies aimed at identifying paths to enhance learning and basic autonomy and at structuring individualised and personalised educational projects;

– get an insight into some educational techniques and methodologies (AAC, structuring of space and time, relationship with peers, relationship with the family ...) useful in educational planning for people with autism.

– experiment, through simulations and case analyses, the educational and planning practice for people with autism.

At the end of the workshop, students will:

* know and understands the main and simplest points of educational intervention for people with autism (AAC; agenda; task Analysis; Token Economy;…)
* know and be able to reflect on the contents of the workshop and to apply them to different educational contexts (school, home, educational centre…)
* be able to effectively communicate the main features of autistic functioning

***WORKSHOP CONTENT***

The workshop mainly aims to allow students to better understand the problems and resources of people with autism, providing effective analysis, evaluation, and educational planning tools to improve learning and the individual's life project.

The training programme is structured in such a way as to integrate the theoretical part on autism and special pedagogy with practical exercises and activities in small and large groups. The practical activities are considered strictly essential to understand how to implement the knowledge acquired during the workshop in the educational context.

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

During the workshop meetings, further study material will be provided to the students.

The following textbook is recommended:

- L. Cottini-G. Vivanti (edited by), *Autismo come e cosa fare con bambini e ragazzi a scuola*. Ed. Giunti Scuola, 2017.[*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/autori-vari/autismo-come-e-cosa-fare-con-bambini-e-ragazzi-a-scuola-1-guida-operativa-e-2-workbook-9788809855854-249168.html)

***TEACHING METHOD***

Workshop lessons; small group simulations; case study and analysis; participatory discussion; audiovisual viewing.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The method for verifying the acquired knowledge and skills consists in developing an authentic task during workshop hours. Students’ passing of the workshop requirements depends on the hours attended (min 75% of the scheduled hours).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Prerequisites

Since it is an introductory course, there are no content-related prerequisites. However, students’ interest and intellectual curiosity for pedagogical reflection, for inclusive education and for autism, is expected.

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at <http://docenti.unicatt.it/>.

1. The textbooks included in the reading list can be purchased at the University bookshops; they may also be bought from other retailers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)