



Holland Bloorview  
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

## **ECHO Ontario Autism Course Schedule - Cycle 4 (2021-2022)**

**Please note that each ECHO Ontario Autism Clinic will be 2-hours long (11:30AM -1:30PM) and will include a didactic presentation (20 minutes), 1- 2 participant-generated case presentations (10 minutes), group discussion and recommendations (45 minutes)**

Date	Topic
Sept 28, 2021	<b>What is autism?</b> <b>Presenter: Dr. Jessica Brian-Psychologist</b> <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The spectrum of presentations of autism</li><li>• Core symptoms of autism &amp; the DSM-5 criteria for an ASD diagnosis</li><li>• (Case example)</li></ul>
October 12, 2021	<b>Surveillance, screening and next steps</b> <b>Presenter: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician</b> <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The difference between surveillance and screening</li><li>• Guideline recommendations in Canada</li><li>• Understanding different ASD screening tools available and developing an approach to using them in your practice</li><li>• What to do if there are developmental concerns identified</li><li>• (Case example)</li></ul>
October 26, 2021	<b>ASD Diagnosis Part 1: history and collateral information</b> <b>Presenter: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician</b> <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How to introduce the ASD diagnostic assessment</li><li>• What questions to ask to elicit ASD symptoms</li><li>• Other essential components of the history</li><li>• Strategies for collecting collateral information from daycare, schools, and other relevant people &amp; places</li></ul>
November 9, 2021	<b>ASD Diagnosis Part 2: observation, interaction, and physical examination</b> <b>Presenter: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician</b> <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategies for getting good observations throughout the assessment</li><li>• Tips &amp; tricks for informal interactions to elicit ASD symptoms</li><li>• Important aspects of the physical examination</li></ul>
November 23, 2021	<b>ASD Diagnosis Part 3: formulation, feedback and next steps</b> <b>Presenter: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician</b> <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How to prepare for the diagnostic feedback session</li><li>• Balancing a structured approach and responding to family needs during the feedback</li><li>• The 6 steps after diagnosis to connect to relevant information, resources, and funding</li></ul>

July 2021



December 7, 2021	<b>While you wait: what parents can do at home...</b> <b>Presenter: Dr. Jessica Brian-Psychologist</b> <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The benefits &amp; caveats of parent-mediated intervention</li><li>• How to help parents: build social routines to foster relationships and promote social-communication; manage repetitive play and intense interests; and build and expand on their child's interests</li></ul>
January 4, 2022	<b>Screening for and managing medical comorbidities: seizures, sleep, constipation/GI</b> <b>Presenter: Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou-Child Neurologist</b> <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Screening for and managing seizures in children with ASD</li><li>• Screening, Strategies and treatments to address sleep difficulties</li><li>• Screening for and managing GI issues</li></ul>
January 18, 2022	<b>ADHD and ASD</b> <b>Presenter: Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou-Child Neurologist</b> <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Screening, assessment, and diagnosis of ADHD in a child with ASD</li><li>• A review of interventions (behaviour &amp; medications)</li></ul>
February 1, 2022	<b>Anxiety, Depression and ASD</b> <b>Presenter: Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou-Child Neurologist</b> <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of depression, anxiety and anxiety disorders in children with ASD</li><li>• Differentiating symptoms of ASD from the symptoms of anxiety</li></ul> A review of appropriate treatments as well as the role of medication in the management of depression, anxiety and anxiety disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>
February 15, 2022	<b>Irritability and ASD</b> <b>Presenter: Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou-Child Neurologist</b> <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Risk factors for irritability</li><li>• Assessments and interventions for irritability</li><li>• Pharmacologic treatment and prescribing considerations</li><li>• CAMESA Guidelines for monitoring medications</li></ul>
March 1, 2022	<b>Autism Acceptance</b> <b>Presenters: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician and Matthew Dever-Self Advocate/Parent Advisor</b> <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The importance of language you use to speak about autism and behavior</li><li>• Develop sensitivity to the emotions experienced by families and how to help build</li></ul>



	<p>acceptance into clinical care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing comfort level in addressing questions of curing/treating autism</li> <li>• The risks of non-acceptance</li> </ul>
March 29, 2022	<p><b>Cultural considerations in working with diverse children and youth with autism and their families</b> <i>Presenter: Dr. Mohammad Zubairi-Developmental Paediatrician</i></p> <p><i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role culture plays in informing parent/caregiver understanding of child &amp; youth development</li> <li>• How to access best possible information about our diverse children, youth and their families in our practice using autism-focused screening &amp; diagnostic tools</li> <li>• How the language we use in our clinical encounters can help families digest the diagnostic, etiologic and prognostic information we provide</li> </ul>
April 12, 2022	<p><b>Is it Sensory?</b></p> <p><i>Presenter: Moira Pena-Occupational Therapist</i></p> <p><i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 8 sensory systems</li> <li>• How sensory processing challenges may present</li> <li>• Recognizing the difference between sensory processing challenges and other co-occurring conditions</li> <li>• Understanding developmentally appropriate picky eating vs. problematic or extreme picky eating (EPE) in kids with ASD.</li> <li>• Understanding contributors in EPE and BEST intervention strategies to support a child's successful participation in mealtimes and foster adequate nutritional intake</li> </ul>
April 26, 2022	<p><b>Taking a Behavioural History</b></p> <p><i>Presenter: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician</i></p> <p><i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ABCs of a behavioural history</li> <li>• How to ask about co-occurring conditions</li> <li>• Medical contributors</li> </ul>
May 10, 2022	<p><b>Principles of Autism Intervention:</b></p> <p><i>Presenter: Dr Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician</i></p> <p><i>This presentation will cover: Evidence and practice in the following areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Behaviour</li> <li>➤ Speech</li> <li>➤ Occupational Therapy</li> <li>• What to look for in a qualified service providers</li> <li>• Goal-setting</li> </ul>



**Holland Bloorview**  
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

May 24, 2022	<b>Transition to adulthood for youth with ASD <i>Presenter:</i></b> <b><i>Dr. Ullanda Niel-Family Physician</i></b> <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How and when to begin planning for transition</li><li>• Best practice guidelines</li><li>• Developmental disabilities primary care initiative (DDPCI) healthcare transition tool</li><li>• Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) application process</li></ul>
June 7, 2022	<b>ASD and puberty</b> <b><i>Presenter: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician</i></b> <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do puberty and sexuality differ in ASD compared to typical development?</li><li>• What are the key pieces of anticipatory guidance for puberty?</li><li>• Guidance around masturbation</li><li>• Management of menstruation</li></ul>
June 21, 2022	<b>School, special education and IEPs: role of the medical provider in supporting parents</b> <b><i>Presenter: Susan Cosgrove-Family Advisor</i></b> <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The process of special education in Ontario</li><li>• Ideas of how to support parents through the process</li><li>• Special needs roadmap &amp; special needs education resources</li></ul>