

ECHO Ontario Autism Psychology-Foundations Schedule Fall 2025

Please note that each ECHO Ontario Autism Psychology Session will be 1.5-hours long (3:30PM – 5:00PM) and will include a didactic presentation (20-30 minutes), 1 participant-generated case presentation (10 minutes), and case discussion and recommendations (40 minutes)

Date	Topic
October 8, 2025	<p>Autism in School Aged Children Presenter: Dr. Jessica Brian – Psychologist <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core symptoms of autism & the DSM-5 criteria for an ASD diagnosis • How ASD presents in the classroom
October 15, 2025	<p>ASD Diagnostic Assessment and Formulation (focus on younger children) Presenter: Dr. Jessica Brian – Psychologist <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key components of ASD diagnostic assessment • Making sense of all the information • Review of ASD Guidance Document and Checklist
October 22, 2025	<p>ASD Diagnostic Assessment in School Age Children and Youth Presenter: Dr. Abbie Solish – Psychologist <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What to look for when assessing older children • Social communication skills / Restricted and repetitive behaviours • Assessment activities to collect relevant information
October 29, 2025	<p>Autism Acceptance Presenters: Maddy Dever – Autistic Advocate and Dr. Melanie Penner – Developmental Paediatrician <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of the language you use when you speak about autism and behaviour • Developing sensitivity to the emotions of families and individuals • How to help build acceptance in the classroom or in groups • The risks of non-acceptance
November 5, 2025	<p>ADHD, Anxiety and ASD: Differential Diagnosis Presenter: Dr. Abbie Solish – Psychologist <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs and characteristics of ADHD and anxiety that can co-occur with ASD • Thinking about how to disentangle ADHD and anxiety from ASD

November 12, 2025	<p>Intellectual Disability (IDD)/Giftedness and ASD: Differential Diagnosis Presenter: Dr. Jessica Brian – Psychologist <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking about overlapping characteristics of children with ID, giftedness, and ASD • Tips and tricks for disentangling these constructs
November 19, 2025	<p>Is it Sensory? Presenter: Moira Pena – Occupational Therapist <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 8 sensory systems • How sensory processing challenges may present in school age children • Recognizing the difference between sensory processing challenges and other co-occurring conditions
November 26, 2025	<p>Language and ASD Presenter: Ian Roth – Speech-Language Pathologist <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining receptive and expressive language skills • Strategies to help children understand you • Maximising a child’s communication skills
December 3, 2025	<p>Ontario Autism Program: Next Steps following a diagnosis of ASD Presenter: Robin Hermolin – Social Worker <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process of applying for OAP funding • What services are covered • How to support parents through the process • The importance of recreation and respite programs