

# Project ImPACT

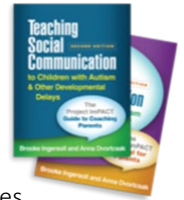
## Information for Providers

### What is Project ImPACT?



Project ImPACT is an evidence-based parent-mediated intervention program based on best practices in early intervention.

- Teaches core social communication skills in a developmental framework
- Uses a blend of developmental and ABA teaching strategies within play and daily caregiving routines
- Uses effective parent coaching and engagement strategies to help parents learn and use the intervention
- Includes elements to support community use, including detailed procedures, family-friendly materials, and two flexible delivery models



Project ImPACT is for young children with social communication delays, including autism spectrum disorder. It is designed for children up to age 6, but may be used for older children with cognitive and language delays.



Project ImPACT is the result of over 15 years of research and development. The developers worked together with families, providers, administrators, and experts to ensure that Project ImPACT can be used effectively in a variety of community intervention programs.



A variety of early intervention professionals - including speech therapists, BCBA's, special educators, social workers, psychologists, and occupational therapists - can coach families effectively in Project ImPACT.

### What training is available to help providers deliver Project ImPACT?

The **Beginner e-Course** (formerly called Online Tutorial) introduces the Project ImPACT program and the intervention techniques. The Beginner e-Course is offered as a 6-hour, self-paced online tutorial that uses a mix of didactic elements, video examples, and exercises to teach key concepts. The Beginner e-Course is \$150 per person and is approved for 7 BACB CEUs and 0.60 ASHA CEUs.

The **Advanced Course** (formerly called Introductory Training Workshop) prepares providers to use the Project ImPACT curriculum with families. The Advanced Course is offered as a 14-hour, multi-day workshop that uses active learning to help providers apply the intervention techniques and parent coaching strategies. Advanced Courses can be delivered in person or virtually over 2 full-days or 4 half-days, and are capped at 20 participants.

*Open Advanced Courses* are offered periodically throughout the year. The cost is \$750 per participant, and includes access to the Beginner e-Course and the coach and parent manual set.

*Closed Advanced Courses* are offered to community organizations based on trainer availability. The cost is \$9,000 plus travel costs for the trainer, if needed, and includes access to the Beginner e-Course. Coach and parent manual set must be purchased separately for each participant.

### How do providers get certified to deliver Project ImPACT?

1. **Read the manuals and complete the Beginner and Advanced Courses**

2. **Receive 6 months of consultation** from a Project ImPACT Trainer Consultant while using the program with families.

*Individual Consultation* involves 6, 1-hour individual consultation meetings with a consultant. Provider must submit training materials and video for review prior to each meeting. The cost is \$3000.

*Group Consultation* involves 1-hour group consultation meetings twice a month with a group of 3-5 providers from the same organization and a consultant. The cost is \$2500 per provider.

3. **Meet fidelity of implementation** through submission of video of key components of the program. Video submission is completed as part of the consultation process. If providers do not meet fidelity during consultation, they may submit additional videos to be reviewed at \$250 per video until fidelity is achieved.

Costs are valid through December 2027

For more information, please visit: [www.project-impact.org](http://www.project-impact.org)





# Frequently Asked Questions

**Is Project ImPACT a neuro-affirming practice?** Neurodiversity is a concept that recognizes and values neurological conditions, including autism, as natural variations in brain function rather than solely as disorders that need to be fixed or normalized. Neurodiversity-affirming practices emphasize understanding and supporting children in a way that respects their unique strengths, challenges, and perspectives, and focus on promoting inclusion, acceptance, and accommodations to help them thrive. Project ImPACT incorporates neurodiversity-affirming principles by acknowledging all communication and focusing on skills that naturally lead to learning, social connection, and well-being, promote autonomy, and support coping and self-regulation. In addition, Project ImPACT uses an individualized and strength-based approach, naturalistic intervention strategies, and collaboration with the family to ensure that intervention is tailored to the needs and preferences of the child.

**Is Project ImPACT ABA?** ABA, or applied behavior analysis, is a set of learning principles that guide certain intervention programs. Project ImPACT is a Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Intervention (NDBI), a newer class of intervention which blends learning principles with developmental principles to build social communication throughout play and daily routines. NDBIs have a very strong evidence-base and are considered best practice for young autistic children. ImPACT was co-developed by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and can be broadly considered ABA – however, since it is a NDBI, it may look quite different from many ABA programs.

**How is Project ImPACT different from (traditional) ABA?** The focus of Project ImPACT is to help children engage and communicate their wants and needs in a way that is understood by others. The parent chooses the social communication goals for their child with the support of the coach. Project ImPACT uses naturalistic ABA techniques, which means the child begins a teaching episode within the context of play or other daily routine by communicating an interest in something. The parent then prompts or cues the child to communicate in a slightly more complex way and then reinforces them naturally, by giving them what they ask for. Project ImPACT does not use mass trials or discrete trial teaching (DTT), artificial reinforcers, compliance training, punishment or aversives, and does not attempt to suppress non-harmful behaviors (e.g., stimming) that a child may use to self-regulate.

**Do I need to become certified in order to use Project ImPACT with families?** No. We have made the Project ImPACT curriculum publicly available to encourage the use of parent coaching in community settings serving young children with social communication challenges. However, we recommend that providers complete the Beginner e-Course and the Advanced Course to fully understand how to use the curriculum with families.

**Can I use Project ImPACT as a direct intervention?** Yes. Project ImPACT was developed as a parent-mediated intervention. However, the intervention strategies are effective as therapist-implemented intervention and can be used by providers and paraprofessionals who deliver direct intervention services to children.

**I completed the Beginner e-Course (Online Tutorial) previously. Do I need to do it again if I attend the Advanced Course?** No. However, it is highly recommended that you review the e-course prior to attending the workshop. You can submit a copy of your Beginner e-Course (Online Tutorial) Completion Certificate to the individual leading the Advanced Course to receive a \$75 discount.

**Do I need a graduate degree to become a Certified Project ImPACT Coach?** No. Given the skills involved in providing high-quality coaching to families, we recommend that providers have a graduate degree in their respective discipline. However, providers without a graduate degree may be eligible to become certified if they have significant experience working with families of young children with social communication challenges.

**Can a Certified Project ImPACT Coach train other providers?** Certified coaches can support other professionals within their practice setting in using Project ImPACT. They may not offer Advanced Workshops or provide certification. Certified coaches who wish to offer Advanced Courses and/or train others to certification must complete additional training to become a Project ImPACT Trainer Consultant.

**Can I use the slides, videos, and other materials I received while doing my certification to train others in my own setting?** No. These materials are only available for use by Certified Trainer Consultants. However, you may use the slides and videos that are provided on Guildford Press's companion website to develop your own training materials.

**Is there a certification process to become a Project ImPACT Trainer Consultant?** Yes. Certified Project ImPACT coaches who have used the program for at least one year can apply to complete additional training to become Project ImPACT Trainer Consultants. Given our limited training capacity, priority will be given to providers who work in regions with a high demand for training.

**Do you provide support to organizational leaders who wish to scale up the use Project ImPACT within their organization?** Yes. Organizations may benefit from assistance in planning and implementing Project ImPACT from a Project ImPACT Trainer Consultant. Team meetings can be conducted prior to or following the Consultation and Certification process and could address planning for sustainability; identifying and coordinating the intervention team; identifying and on-boarding families; determining program logistics; addressing family barriers to participation; and determining adaptations that can be made to meet the needs of the organization while still maintaining fidelity.