



# Why and How to Engage Families as Presenters in Training for Health, Education, and Law Enforcement Community Agency Partners

## Family Involvement in Training for Educators/School Administrators: Los Angeles County Autism Spectrum Alliance (LACASA)

### Background

In 2008, The Los Angeles County Autism Spectrum Alliance (LACASA) began as a group of educators (Special Education Directors, Autism Specialists, Program Specialists and Special Education Local Planning Area (SELPA) Directors), clinicians through the Southern California Diagnostic Center (funded by the CA Department of Education), regional centers, Disability Rights CA (the P&A in CA), Alternative Dispute Resolution professionals and parents (primarily from SELPA Community Advisory Committees).

The goal of LACASA was to develop training on Autism for special education teachers. As a group, we developed a 5-day training. The first LACASA training was conducted in 2008. Based on the success of that training, 2 additional trainings were developed 1) a ½ day training for school administrators and 2) a full-day training for general education teachers.

### Impact

Over the last 9 years over 1500 people have participated in trainings (280 special education teachers, 540 general education teachers and 710 school administrators).

### Family Participation

Family Participation has included parent panels, the parent perspective, presentations on parent professional collaboration and scenario based activities.

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