

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Pennsylvania Early Intervention Technical Assistance Sponsored Enrollment Autism Navigator for Early Intervention Providers Online Professional Course

1. What is the *Autism Navigator for Early Intervention Providers: Knowledge and Skills* course?

The *Autism Navigator for Early Intervention Providers: Knowledge and Skills (AN: K&S) course* is a thirty hour online professional development course designed for early intervention providers. It's divided into five thematic units and one of many Autism Navigator (AN) courses developed by the Florida State University (FSU) Autism Institute to promote effective services and supports for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families. See pp. 4 of these FAQs for information about other available AN courses.

The **AN: K & S** integrates current research on early identification and intervention of ASD with the requirements of Part C infant/toddler early intervention (EI) services. While the emphasis of this course is on infant/toddler EI, it is a valuable professional development resource for preschool EI and other early childhood and behavioral health home visiting professionals and early childhood higher education faculty.

For more information on course content and hours, refer to the course description [About the Course – Autism Navigator for Early Intervention Providers](#) on the [EITA Portal](#).

2. How is Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA) supporting enrollment of Pennsylvania (PA) EI professionals in the *AN: K & S* course?

Through a contract between FSU and EITA, a generous but limited number of **AN: K & S** enrollment seats will be available to approved PA Early Intervention and early childhood professionals at no cost (a \$625/seat market value) until December 2019.

Beginning January 2016 and until all contracted seats are used, an open enrollment process is in place to fill the pre-paid seats in the **AN: K & S** course. Each approved PA seat provides one year of access to this course from the date of enrollment registration. Enrollment registration may occur at any time throughout the year. The course requires 30 hours of study and enrollees are expected to finish the course.

Because the course targets Part C services to infants and toddlers with autism, infant-toddler EI direct service professionals will have access to the majority of PA's **AN: K & S** seats.

3. How does this course benefit PA EI professionals?

Since approximately one in 68 persons have autism, it's likely that most EI professionals will serve children with autism. Evidence based practice for early identification and intervention for infants and toddlers with autism is evolving rapidly. This course provides a state-of-the-art professional development opportunity specifically designed to support evidence-based practices within a Part C infant toddler EI context. The course is entirely self-paced and online.

Some incentives to enroll include:

- Increased knowledge and practical skill-based utility
- Convenience – this is a 100% online professional development opportunity
- If approved for enrollment, free course access for one year from registration (a \$625 value)
- ASHA credit hours for completion of *Autism Navigator* Units for eligible SLPs
- Certificates of Completion issued by Florida State University that may be used as evidence for PA Infant-Toddler EI training credit hours.

4. Since there are multiple AN courses and resources, which one(s) is suggested for my position?

Before submitting an enrollment request, please read and follow the recommendations in the table at the end of this FAQ. It will help you to identify the Autism Navigator course and resources recommended for your position.

5. Who is eligible to enroll in the 30 hour *Knowledge and Skills* course and how may I enroll?

Please refer to the Tables on pp 5-6 at the end of this document first.

Infant Toddler Early Intervention Professionals

Because focus of the course is on social communication skills support through EI services to very young children with ASD, **it is highly recommended that all PA special instructors and speech and language pathologists who serve infants and toddlers through ongoing IFSP services enroll in and complete the course.**

After reading the **AN: K & S** course description, these FAQs and the attached course recommendation tables, infant-toddler EI professionals who are interested in and eligible for enrollment may email EITA at **ANenroll@pattan.net** to request enrollment.

Once EITA receives your enrollment request, you will be asked to complete a *PA AN Enrollment Agreement*. After your completed agreement form is received and approved, EITA will send enrollment instructions and a code. Please allow up to two weeks for your request to be processed.

Preschool Early Intervention Procedures

Each preschool EI program (i.e., MAWA) has 10 open **AN: K & S** course seats at one time. The local preschool supervisor will determine who fills these seats. If more seats are needed, the preschool supervisor may email ANenroll@pattan.net to request additional seats.

All interested preschool EI professionals must request **AN: K & S** course enrollment from her/his local preschool supervisor.

The preschool supervisor must then send your name and email address to EITA via ANenroll@pattan.net to request enrollment. EITA will follow up by asking you to complete a *PA AN Enrollment Agreement (FAQ #6)*. After your completed agreement form is received, EITA will send enrollment instructions and a code. Please allow up to two weeks for your request to be processed.

Pennsylvania Higher Education Early Childhood Special Education and Early Intervention Faculty

*Pennsylvania higher education faculty who regularly teach courses in Early Intervention, Early Childhood Special Education, Early Care and Education, or Related Services (i.e., SLP, OT) are invited to apply for enrollment in the *Autism Navigator for Early Intervention Providers* course to assist in preparing their students to work with young children with ASD. **After** reading the **AN: K & S** course description and these FAQs, these *PA faculty may email a request for enrollment to EITA at ANenroll@pattan.net. EITA will follow up by asking you to complete a *PA AN Enrollment Agreement (FAQ #6)*. After your completed agreement form is received and approved, EITA will send enrollment instructions and a code. Please allow up to two weeks for your request to be processed.

6. What is the *PA AN Enrollment Agreement*? Is it required for enrollment?

The *PA AN Enrollment Agreement* is a required enrollment application for EITA sponsored **AN: K & S** enrollment. It asks for basic profile information and requires potential enrollees to attest to the following conditions:

- You are currently and anticipate continuing for the upcoming year:
 - 1) Providing or supervising EI services in Pennsylvania, or
 - 2) Teaching Early Intervention, Early Childhood Special Education, Early Care and Education, or Related Services (i.e., SLP, OT) related coursework in a PA institution of higher education
- You have read the Autism Navigator Course Description and these FAQs, and agree to complete the 30 hour online course.
- You will not share your enrollment code with any persons, agencies, groups or organizations.
- You have access to the following computer resources required to use the online course: 1. Internet connection with adequate speed to view video clips, 2. Speakers or headphones for audio, 3. The latest version of Chrome, Safari or Firefox (Explorer is not supported), 4. Adobe Reader for PDF files.

7. What can I expect once I enroll?

The **AN: K & S** course is a 30 hour online course consisting of five thematic units. It is entirely self-paced. There are no scheduled times that an enrollee must be online. Approved PA AN enrollees have one year from registration to complete the course (at no cost).

It is highly recommended that enrollees schedule a minimum of five hours per month on the course. The course content progressively builds knowledge across units. Five hours per month keeps learners on track with content while preventing attrition. At five hours per month, an enrollee can expect to complete the course in six months and have an additional six months to use course materials and resources.

Enrollees are encouraged to share *Autism Navigator* tools and resources with families and team members.

8. Are any continuing education units (CEUs) awarded for the Knowledge and Skills course? How and when are they awarded?

- Act 48 CEUs are not issued by EITA/PaTTAN or FSU for this course.
- For each of the 5 Units, Certificates of Completion are issued from FSU. These Certificates may be used as evidence for PA infant-toddler EI training hours. To obtain a Certificate of Completion, enrollees must complete the Post-Unit Assessment with an 80% pass rate. The assessment may be repeated as needed.
- ASHA CEUs are issued through FSU and Autism Navigator to eligible SLPs.
- EITA/PaTTAN will not be issuing CEUs of any type for AN completion.
- For Certificate of Completion & ASHA hours, see the chart below.

Unit	AN Certificate of Completion	ASHA
Unit 1: Improving Early Detection	5.5 hours	.55 CEUs
Unit 2: Collaborating with Families	3 hours	.30 CEUs
Unit 3: Developmental Perspective	6 hours	.60 CEUs
Unit 4: Evidence-based Intervention Strategies	11 hours	1.10 CEUs
Unit 5: Addressing Challenging Behaviors	5 hours	.5 CEUs

9. I’m interested in taking the three hour *About Autism in Toddlers* course. How do I register? Are CEUs available for the *Autism Navigator: About Autism in Toddlers* course?

Autism Navigator: About Autism in Toddlers is a free course that’s available online through the Autism Navigator. If you’re interested in obtaining three Pennsylvania Infant Toddler Early Intervention training hours (and a certificate of completion), you must register for the course on the EITA Portal.

- a. To register for the course on the **EITA Portal**, go to <http://www.eita-pa.org/professional-development/> (then scroll to the **Service Delivery** course section to find the *About Autism in Toddlers* course).
- b. Once you register for this course by completing demographic information on the EITA Portal, you will be directed to a link for the ***Autism Navigator: About Autism in Toddlers*** course.
- c. After you’ve completed the ***About Autism in Toddler*** course (approximately 3 hours) on the Autism Navigator site, you must return to the EITA Portal and complete the quiz and reflection activity.
- d. Once you pass the quiz (80%), you will received a Certificate of Completion valid for 3 Infant/Toddler PA EI training hours.

10. How do I prevent or address technical problems within the course (e.g., slow video play; denied access)?

Please keep in mind that Florida State University (not EITA) manages the AN course. **All technical problems should be directed to the AN Help Desk** (linked in the course). If you are unable to access the course after following enrollment instructions and these guidelines, email the *Autism Navigator* Help Desk for advice (autismnavigator@med.fsu.edu).

Autism Navigator contains extensive interactive audio/video content. You must use **the latest versions** of the following browsers on the platforms listed below:

Mac and PC laptops and desktops; iPads

Chrome, Safari, Firefox (**AN will not function properly in Internet Explorer**)

Windows based tablets:

Not currently supported.

Most technical problems submitted to the Navigator team are solved by **updating browsers**.

Autism Navigator Courses and Recommended Resources	Course Description and Enrollment Information
<p>AN:K & S</p> <p>Autism Navigator for Early Intervention: Knowledge and Skills</p>	<p>A thirty hour course designed primarily for Early Intervention providers who support children and families in the home.</p> <p>PA Autism Navigator Enrollment Information and Course Description are available on the EITA Portal→ Topic of Interest→ Autism→ Autism Navigator page http://www.eita-pa.org/autism/</p> <p>All of the FSU Autism Navigator Courses & their descriptions are available at http://autismnavigator.com/courses-tools/</p>
<p>AN: AAT</p> <p>Autism Navigator: About Autism in Toddlers</p>	<p>An outstanding, free online course with extensive video examples. It takes up to 3 hours to complete.</p> <p>It is appropriate for all Early Intervention, early childhood, and related services professionals and families. Course Link - http://autismnavigator.com/resources-and-tools/#about To obtain three PA Infant/Toddler EI Training hours (and a certificate of completion) for this course, see FAQ #9.</p>
<p>AN: VG</p> <p>Autism Navigator: Video Glossary</p>	<p>An excellent, free, online resource. Includes videos of parent perspectives, intervention practices, autism symptoms, etc. This is an open-ended resource for exploration rather than a course requiring “completion”.</p> <p>Course link - http://autismnavigator.com/resources-and-tools/#about</p>
<p>EITA Portal→ Topic of Interest→ Autism</p>	<p>Includes evidence based and quality resources for parents of and professionals who support young children with ASD. This is a Pennsylvania Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA) sponsored site that includes information on PA’s Autism Navigator enrollment process. Resource link - http://www.eita-pa.org/autism/</p>
<p>AN:PC</p> <p>Autism Navigator for Primary Care</p>	<p>An eight hour course designed primarily for pediatric practices. EITA will sponsor enrollment in this course for any pediatric physician practice recommended for enrollment by an LICC. LICCs may email ANenroll@pattan.net to request information and enrollment. Course description: http://www.autismnavigator.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/About-Autism-Navigator-for-Primary-Care.pdf</p>

If your role is ↓	Recommended Course	Recommended Optional Courses	Recommended Resources
<p>Speech and Language Therapist or Special Instructor providing ongoing IFSP services</p>	<p>Highly recommended that all of these professionals enroll and complete AN:K & S</p>	<p>AN: AAT AN: VG</p>	<p>EITA Portal Topic of Interest → Autism</p>
<p>Speech and Language Therapist Or Special Educator providing ongoing IEP services</p> <p>Behavior Specialist providing ongoing IFSP/IEP services</p> <p>Occupational Therapist providing ongoing IFSP/IEP services</p> <p>Pennsylvania higher education faculty who regularly teach courses in Early Intervention, Early Childhood Special Education, Early Care and Education, or Related Services (i.e., SLP, OT)</p>	<p>AN:K & S</p>	<p>AN: AAT AN: VG</p>	<p>EITA Portal Topic of Interest → Autism</p>
<p>Independent Evaluator <i>(Assessing for EI Infant-Toddler Eligibility)</i></p> <p>Physical Therapist, Vision or Hearing Specialist providing ongoing IFSP/IEP services</p> <p>Program Supervisor or Coordinator of EI Services</p> <p>Psychologist</p> <p>Other EI related services positions (not listed above) providing ongoing IFSP/IEP services</p>	<p><i>Depending on your professional interests and needs, you may choose to enroll in either course.</i></p> <p><i>It's recommended that you review the AN: AAT course and AN:VG resource <u>before</u> making a decision to enroll in AN:K & S.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> AN: AAT AN: VG or AN:K & S </p>		<p>EITA Portal Topic of Interest → Autism</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFSP Service Coordinator • EI Para-professional • Parents of children with suspected or confirmed social communication developmental delays • Early Care & Education Professionals, Para-professionals • Behavioral Health and Home Visiting Professionals who support young children 	<p>AN: AAT AN: VG</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>First Words Project http://firstwordsproject.com/</p> <p>EITA Portal Topic of Interest → Autism and Professional Development</p>

