

# Contents

**Part I   Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders, Intervention  
Research, and Considerations in Developing  
an ASD Program**

|                                                                                                                                                           |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>1   Autism Spectrum Disorders in Children and Youth</b>                                                                                                | <b>3</b>      |
| The Autism Spectrum.....                                                                                                                                  | 3             |
| What Causes Autism?.....                                                                                                                                  | 4             |
| Characteristics of ASD.....                                                                                                                               | 5             |
| Core Features.....                                                                                                                                        | 6             |
| Social Interaction.....                                                                                                                                   | 6             |
| Communication.....                                                                                                                                        | 8             |
| Stereotyped, Repetitive, and Ritualistic Behaviors and Interests.....                                                                                     | 9             |
| Associated and Related Features .....                                                                                                                     | 10            |
| Cognitive and Neurocognitive Impairments .....                                                                                                            | 10            |
| Mental Health, Behavior Disorders, and Adaptive Skills .....                                                                                              | 12            |
| Seizures, Sleep and Feeding Difficulties.....                                                                                                             | 13            |
| Implications for Developing ASD Programs .....                                                                                                            | 14            |
| References.....                                                                                                                                           | 15            |
| <br><b>2   Educational Programming for Students with Autism<br/>Spectrum Disorders: A Review of the Literature<br/>and a Program Development Protocol</b> | <br><b>19</b> |
| Factors Affecting Educational Programming for Students with ASD .....                                                                                     | 19            |
| A Brief Review of the ASD Intervention Literature .....                                                                                                   | 20            |
| Comprehensive Treatment Programs .....                                                                                                                    | 21            |
| Specific Intervention Methods .....                                                                                                                       | 23            |
| Summary of the Evidence Base in ASD Intervention.....                                                                                                     | 31            |
| Evaluating the Evidence of Effective Practice in ASD Intervention.....                                                                                    | 32            |
| Tip Box.....                                                                                                                                              | 34            |
| Elements of Effective Practice in ASD Intervention.....                                                                                                   | 34            |

|                                                                                                                    |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| The ASD Program Development and Evaluation Protocol .....                                                          | 36     |
| Description of the Protocol.....                                                                                   | 36     |
| Objective 1: ASD Program Model: Appropriate Educational<br>and Behavioral Support for Students with ASD .....      | 37     |
| Objective 2: Improve Student Achievement .....                                                                     | 37     |
| ASD Program Model: Components Described .....                                                                      | 38     |
| ASD Program Evaluation Protocol .....                                                                              | 38     |
| ASD Classroom Development System.....                                                                              | 38     |
| ASD Staff Training Model.....                                                                                      | 38     |
| ASD Student Support Team: Collaborative Planning and<br>Problem Solving.....                                       | 39     |
| ASD Family-School Collaborative Model.....                                                                         | 39     |
| Considerations in Applying the ASD Program Development<br>and Evaluation Protocol .....                            | 39     |
| References.....                                                                                                    | 40     |
| <br><b>3 Program Evaluation in Special Education: A Framework<br/>for the ASD Program Evaluation Protocol.....</b> | <br>43 |
| Overview of Program Evaluation.....                                                                                | 43     |
| Planning a Program Evaluation.....                                                                                 | 44     |
| Purpose of the Evaluation.....                                                                                     | 46     |
| Describe the Program Components and Context .....                                                                  | 46     |
| Model of Evaluation .....                                                                                          | 47     |
| Stakeholder Groups .....                                                                                           | 48     |
| Evaluation Methods.....                                                                                            | 48     |
| Qualitative Methods.....                                                                                           | 49     |
| Observation.....                                                                                                   | 49     |
| Interviews.....                                                                                                    | 49     |
| Quantitative Methods .....                                                                                         | 49     |
| Criteria and Standards for Program Components .....                                                                | 50     |
| Data Collection Plan .....                                                                                         | 50     |
| Data Analysis Plan.....                                                                                            | 52     |
| Report & Disseminate Findings .....                                                                                | 52     |
| Action Planning .....                                                                                              | 53     |
| The Role of Program Evaluation in Developing/Improving<br>Educational Programs for Students with ASD .....         | 54     |
| References.....                                                                                                    | 54     |
| <br><b>Part II The ASD Program Development and Evaluation Protocol</b>                                             |        |
| <br><b>4 Conducting the Needs Assessment .....</b>                                                                 | <br>57 |
| ASD Program Evaluation Protocol: The Needs Assessment.....                                                         | 57     |
| Methods Described .....                                                                                            | 58     |
| Measures Described .....                                                                                           | 59     |

|                                                         |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| District/Special Education Program Infrastructure ..... | 59         |
| Program Quality .....                                   | 63         |
| Classroom Instructional Quality .....                   | 63         |
| Personnel Performance .....                             | 65         |
| Social Validity and Satisfaction .....                  | 66         |
| Interviews .....                                        | 67         |
| Student Characteristics .....                           | 68         |
| Conducting the Needs Assessment .....                   | 68         |
| Pre-assessment Phase .....                              | 68         |
| Assessment Phase .....                                  | 70         |
| Data Analysis Phase .....                               | 73         |
| Report and Disseminate Findings .....                   | 78         |
| Post Assessment Phase: Action Planning .....            | 78         |
| Appendix 4.1 .....                                      | 80         |
| Appendix 4.2 .....                                      | 85         |
| Appendix 4.3 .....                                      | 87         |
| Appendix 4.4 .....                                      | 88         |
| Appendix 4.5 .....                                      | 91         |
| Appendix 4.6 .....                                      | 92         |
| Appendix 4.7 .....                                      | 93         |
| Appendix 4.8 .....                                      | 94         |
| Appendix 4.9 .....                                      | 95         |
| Appendix 4.10 .....                                     | 96         |
| References .....                                        | 97         |
| <b>5 ASD Program Development Action Planning .....</b>  | <b>99</b>  |
| Action Planning for the ASD Program .....               | 99         |
| Step 1: Establish an ASD Program Team .....             | 100        |
| Step 2: Develop a Vision Statement .....                | 103        |
| Step 3: Setting Goals & Identifying Activities .....    | 104        |
| Implementing the Action Plan .....                      | 108        |
| Evaluating the ASD Program Development Initiative ..... | 109        |
| Developing the ASD Program .....                        | 109        |
| References .....                                        | 110        |
| <b>6 ASD Staff Training Model .....</b>                 | <b>111</b> |
| Autism Spectrum Disorders Staff Training Model .....    | 111        |
| Training Curriculum .....                               | 113        |
| Content .....                                           | 113        |
| Training Format and Methods .....                       | 116        |
| Foundations Training .....                              | 116        |
| In-Services .....                                       | 116        |
| Train-the-Trainer .....                                 | 117        |
| Technical Manual .....                                  | 119        |
| Evaluation of Personnel Performance .....               | 119        |

|                                                                  |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Developing an ASD Staff Training Model .....                     | 120        |
| Considerations in Establishing a Supportive Infrastructure ..... | 120        |
| Fiscal Resources.....                                            | 121        |
| Personnel Resources.....                                         | 122        |
| Policy and Procedures for Staff Training .....                   | 122        |
| Considerations in Developing a Staff Training Curriculum .....   | 123        |
| Identifying Content.....                                         | 123        |
| Selecting Format and Methods.....                                | 124        |
| Selecting Performance Evaluation .....                           | 125        |
| Final Considerations in Maintaining the ASD Training Model.....  | 125        |
| Sample In-Service.....                                           | 126        |
| Appendix 6.1 .....                                               | 127        |
| References.....                                                  | 129        |
| <br><b>7 ASD Classroom Development System: Designing</b>         |            |
| <b>an ASD Classroom .....</b>                                    | <b>131</b> |
| Elements of the Learning Context.....                            | 132        |
| Environmental Supports: Structuring the Learning Context.....    | 132        |
| Curriculum and Instruction Element .....                         | 139        |
| Procedural Element: Personnel Practices .....                    | 144        |
| Developing the ASD Classroom.....                                | 147        |
| Classroom Development Procedure.....                             | 147        |
| Considerations in Developing an ASD Classroom .....              | 151        |
| Appendix 7.1 .....                                               | 153        |
| Appendix 7.2 .....                                               | 154        |
| References.....                                                  | 155        |
| <br><b>8 Student Evaluation .....</b>                            | <b>159</b> |
| Purpose of Psychoeducational Assessment in the                   |            |
| ASD Classroom Model .....                                        | 159        |
| Student Evaluation Protocol .....                                | 160        |
| Assessment Methods .....                                         | 161        |
| Norm-Referenced Assessment .....                                 | 161        |
| Criterion-Referenced Testing .....                               | 161        |
| Curriculum-Based Assessment.....                                 | 163        |
| Functional Behavior Assessment.....                              | 164        |
| Interview .....                                                  | 165        |
| Observation .....                                                | 165        |
| Linking Student Evaluation Data to Program Planning .....        | 166        |
| Describing Student Learning Characteristics.....                 | 166        |
| Autism Symptoms .....                                            | 167        |
| Developmental and Cognitive Ability.....                         | 167        |
| Social Communication.....                                        | 168        |

|                                                                                             |                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Prosocial and Adaptive Behavior .....                                                       | 169            |
| Academic and Learning Difficulties .....                                                    | 171            |
| Emotional and Behavioral Disorders .....                                                    | 171            |
| Evaluating the Instructional Context .....                                                  | 172            |
| Monitoring Student Progress and Evaluating Outcomes .....                                   | 173            |
| Problem-Solving Student Learning and Behavior Problems .....                                | 174            |
| Considerations in the Assessment of Students with ASD .....                                 | 175            |
| References .....                                                                            | 177            |
| <br><b>9 ASD Student Support Teams: Collaborative Teaming<br/>and Problem Solving .....</b> | <br><b>181</b> |
| ASD Student Support Team Structure Described .....                                          | 181            |
| ASD Classroom Team .....                                                                    | 182            |
| ASD Inclusion Team .....                                                                    | 182            |
| ASD School Team .....                                                                       | 183            |
| Roles and Responsibilities of Team Members .....                                            | 183            |
| Administrator .....                                                                         | 183            |
| Special Education Teacher .....                                                             | 185            |
| Speech-Language Pathologist .....                                                           | 185            |
| Other Related Service Personnel .....                                                       | 186            |
| General Education Classroom Teacher .....                                                   | 186            |
| Paraprofessional .....                                                                      | 186            |
| Parent .....                                                                                | 187            |
| ASD Consultant .....                                                                        | 187            |
| Team Meetings .....                                                                         | 187            |
| Team Meeting .....                                                                          | 187            |
| Teacher Meeting .....                                                                       | 188            |
| Parent-Team Meeting .....                                                                   | 188            |
| Administrator Meeting .....                                                                 | 189            |
| Consultant Meeting .....                                                                    | 189            |
| Format of Team Meetings .....                                                               | 190            |
| Collaborative Team Process .....                                                            | 190            |
| Collaborative Planning .....                                                                | 191            |
| Collaborative Problem Solving .....                                                         | 192            |
| Communication Procedure .....                                                               | 193            |
| Consultation and Training .....                                                             | 194            |
| Considerations in Establishing an ASD Interdisciplinary Student<br>Support Team .....       | 194            |
| References .....                                                                            | 195            |
| <br><b>10 The ASD Family–School Collaborative Model .....</b>                               | <br><b>197</b> |
| Description of the ASD Family–School Collaborative Model .....                              | 197            |
| Components of the ASD Family–School Collaborative Model .....                               | 198            |

|                                                                                               |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Parent Education In-Services .....                                                            | 198     |
| Parent-Team Meetings .....                                                                    | 201     |
| Home-School Communication.....                                                                | 202     |
| Home Consultation.....                                                                        | 202     |
| Community Information and Referral .....                                                      | 203     |
| Evaluation of the ASD Family-School Collaborative Model.....                                  | 203     |
| Considerations in Developing an Effective Family-School<br>Partnership .....                  | 204     |
| Considerations in Applying the ASD Family-School<br>Collaborative Model .....                 | 205     |
| School Level Support .....                                                                    | 205     |
| Targeted Level .....                                                                          | 206     |
| Individual Level.....                                                                         | 206     |
| Considerations in Maintaining an Effective Family-School<br>Collaboration.....                | 207     |
| References.....                                                                               | 207     |
| <br><b>11 The ASD Program Evaluation Protocol for Continuous<br/>Program Improvement.....</b> | <br>209 |
| Purpose of Continuous Program Evaluation.....                                                 | 209     |
| ASD Program Evaluation Protocol .....                                                         | 210     |
| Overview of Methods and Measures .....                                                        | 210     |
| Assessment of ASD Program Quality: School and<br>Classroom Level.....                         | 214     |
| Assessment of Personnel Performance.....                                                      | 215     |
| Assessment of the Interdisciplinary Collaborative Team.....                                   | 215     |
| Assessment of Student Instructional Needs, Progress<br>Monitoring and Outcome.....            | 216     |
| Assessment of Social Validity .....                                                           | 217     |
| Assessment of ASD Program Model Implementation.....                                           | 217     |
| Data Collection and Decision Making.....                                                      | 218     |
| Data Collection.....                                                                          | 218     |
| Data Analysis and Decision Making.....                                                        | 219     |
| ASD Program Level.....                                                                        | 220     |
| Instructional Context and Personnel Practices .....                                           | 221     |
| Social Validity.....                                                                          | 221     |
| Student Performance .....                                                                     | 222     |
| ASD Classroom/Inclusion Model Level .....                                                     | 223     |
| Social Validity and Acceptability .....                                                       | 224     |
| Student.....                                                                                  | 224     |
| Individual Personnel Level.....                                                               | 225     |
| Applying Data to Inform Program Activities.....                                               | 225     |
| Appendix 11.1.....                                                                            | 227     |
| Appendix 11.2.....                                                                            | 229     |
| References.....                                                                               | 231     |

### **Part III Applications of the ASD Program Development and Evaluation Protocol: A Selection of Case Examples**

|                                                                    |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>12 Case Example: Inclusion Program Development .....</b>        | <b>235</b>     |
| ASD Program Development: ASD Inclusion Model .....                 | 235            |
| Case Description .....                                             | 236            |
| The School District.....                                           | 236            |
| Technical Assistance .....                                         | 236            |
| The ASD Inclusion Team .....                                       | 236            |
| The Students.....                                                  | 237            |
| Outcomes of Needs Assessment and ASD Program Development           |                |
| Action Plan.....                                                   | 237            |
| Action Planning and Program Development.....                       | 238            |
| Program Evaluation Data .....                                      | 240            |
| Program Level Data .....                                           | 241            |
| Personnel Performance Data .....                                   | 241            |
| Student Outcome Data .....                                         | 242            |
| Satisfaction and Acceptability Data.....                           | 243            |
| Summary and Discussion .....                                       | 244            |
| References.....                                                    | 245            |
| <br><b>13 Case Example: Redesigning a Specialized School .....</b> | <br><b>247</b> |
| ASD Program Development: School Redesign .....                     | 247            |
| Case Description: The School Program .....                         | 248            |
| The School Program.....                                            | 248            |
| Needs Assessment.....                                              | 248            |
| Program Level Findings.....                                        | 249            |
| Personnel Performance .....                                        | 250            |
| Student Characteristics .....                                      | 250            |
| Parent-School Communication.....                                   | 251            |
| Instructional Context .....                                        | 251            |
| ASD Program Development Action Plan.....                           | 252            |
| Year 1 Objectives and Activities: Establishing an ASD              |                |
| Program Model.....                                                 | 255            |
| Defining the ASD Program Model: Establishing School                |                |
| Readiness .....                                                    | 255            |
| Building Programmatic Infrastructure .....                         | 256            |
| Program Evaluation: Planning for Year 2 .....                      | 259            |
| Year 2 Program Development Activities .....                        | 260            |
| Expanding the Classroom Continuum .....                            | 261            |
| Developing the Student Curriculum and Performance                  |                |
| Data System .....                                                  | 261            |
| Developing the ASD Staff Training Model.....                       | 262            |

|                                                                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Developing a Program Evaluation Protocol .....                                        | 263        |
| Program Evaluation: Planning for Year 3 .....                                         | 263        |
| Year 3 Program Development Activities .....                                           | 263        |
| Developing Student Curriculums and Performance Data<br>System .....                   | 264        |
| Developing the Staff Training Model.....                                              | 264        |
| Expanding the Classroom Continuum .....                                               | 265        |
| Program Evaluation: Summative Data Review and Planning<br>for Sustainability .....    | 265        |
| Program Level Outcomes .....                                                          | 265        |
| Personnel Performance .....                                                           | 266        |
| Satisfaction and Acceptability .....                                                  | 268        |
| Student Outcomes .....                                                                | 268        |
| Cost-Benefit .....                                                                    | 269        |
| Discussion .....                                                                      | 270        |
| <b>14 Building Regional Capacity: Select Case Examples .....</b>                      | <b>273</b> |
| Determining Community Need .....                                                      | 273        |
| Establishing Community Infrastructure .....                                           | 274        |
| Community Education Infrastructure .....                                              | 276        |
| Technical Assistance Infrastructure.....                                              | 276        |
| Description of Select Case Examples and Replications of the<br>ASD Program Model..... | 277        |
| Developing and Applying the ASD Program Development &<br>Evaluation Protocol .....    | 278        |
| Case Example 1: Developing a Continuum of Self-Contained<br>Classrooms .....          | 278        |
| Case Example 2: Developing an ASD Inclusion Continuum.....                            | 280        |
| Case Example 3: Developing an ASD Inclusion Program .....                             | 284        |
| Discussion.....                                                                       | 287        |
| References.....                                                                       | 289        |
| <b>Index.....</b>                                                                     | <b>291</b> |