

## SCIENCE AND THE TREATMENT OF AUTISM: A multimedia package for parents and professionals

UK/08/LLP-LdV/TOI/163\_187

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/adam/project/view.htm?prj=4404>

## Project Information

Title: SCIENCE AND THE TREATMENT OF AUTISM: A multimedia package for parents and professionals

Project Number: UK/08/LLP-LdV/TOI/163\_187

Year: 2008

Project Type: Transfer of Innovation

Status: completed

Country: UK-United Kingdom

Marketing Text: The main aim of this project was to address the mismatch between increasing rates of autism diagnosis and the availability of professionals trained in Applied Behaviour Analysis. The target audience included professionals in the field of psychology, medicine, education, and social work, who were concerned with autism, and, importantly, parents of children with autism. The project will be realised in two ways. Firstly, adaptations had been made of a unique multimedia training resource (SIMPLE STEPS - see [www.peatni.org](http://www.peatni.org)), developed by parents and professionals in a parent-led charity in N. Ireland concerned with the treatment of autism. Secondly, additional material for this resource had generated through dialogue with partners that took into account curriculum development issues in professional training in the science of behaviour analysis as well as cultural issues that are specific to each of the partner countries. As part of the project the partners provided 1000 copies of the pack in each of the partner languages (Spanish, German, and Norwegian).

Summary: The project addressed the acute shortage of suitably qualified professionals in behaviour analysis in Europe who could design, implement, and monitor interventions to address individual needs of children with autism through the science of Applied Behaviour Analysis. Parents of these children also needed training to help maximise the potential benefits of the treatment. In addition, there was a need for home tutors to be trained in ABA who could help parents run programmes. This project addressed this shortage in training opportunities by adapting an innovative multimedia training system for parents and professionals.

This project is the first of its kind to bring expertise in science-based training in autism to European partner institutions. The multilingual feature of the multimedia environment increased learning opportunities where currently a vacuum existed.

The multimedia environment was a valuable guide for lifelong learning on the part of parents. Parents were able to learn from seeing video clips of treatment procedure that they were able to adapt to meet the individual needs of each child. In addition, making the material culturally sensitive helped to highlight shortfalls in the teaching of the science across participating countries.

Given the shortage of training courses across Europe, a standardised multimedia environment helped to ensure transparency in competencies that are essential in the development of practical skills for students and continuous professional development for professionals.

The multimedia environment was relatively new to the teaching of the science of behaviour analysis and vocational education and training. As such this Project was specifically targeted as an innovative way of addressing lifelong learning. Currently, training material in the science of behaviour for the treatment of autism is largely confined to textbooks. For vocational lifelong learners, such as parents and professionals not familiar with scientific practices this presents a formidable obstacle. However, by using audio-visual material along with textural material in their own languages it will be possible to teach the principles of science and demonstrate practices that impact on how one maximises the learning opportunities for children with autism. We aimed to help parents become proficient in delivering home programs for their children, this made it easier to coordinate the learning opportunities for the child with those provided within a school.

## Project Information

In a general context where opportunities to obtain international qualifications in behaviour analysis (see [www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com)) were severely restricted, this project aimed to develop coherence between the education of children with autism and the vocational education and training of their parents and professionals. As such the project addressed issues concerned with lifelong learning through the promotion and exchange of excellence in scientific training. This had been done via the development and dissemination of innovative multimedia resources for education, based on current scientific evidence. The project raised the quality of vocational training; built on and transferred best practices from all over Europe; developed and customised training materials for the needs of learners in the partner countries; exchanged experiences between teachers, trainers and managers thus increasing the transparency of the different vocational training systems in Europe and fostered their modernisation through learning from each other; offered innovations and improvements in Vocational Education and Training across European countries; engaged in transfer of knowledge, innovation and expertise between various Vocational Education and Training actors through transnational, and interdisciplinary learning.

**Description:** There was a serious mismatch between increasing rates of autism diagnosis and the availability of professionals trained in the only science with a significant track record in its treatment, Behaviour Analysis. The main aim of this project was to address this mismatch by developing multimedia training resources in behaviour analysis. The target audience included professionals in the field of psychology, medicine, education, and social work, who are concerned with autism, and, importantly, parents of children with autism. This aim were met in two ways. Firstly, adaptations was made of a unique multimedia training resource (SIMPLE STEPS - see [www.peatni.org](http://www.peatni.org)), developed by parents and professionals in a parent-led charity in N. Ireland concerned with the treatment of autism. Secondly, additional material for this resource were generated through dialogue with partners that takes into account curriculum development issues in professional training in the science of behaviour analysis as well as cultural issues that are specific to each of the partner countries. The package was translated into the native language of each partner country. It was envisaged that the finished product will be made available to parent groups in the partner countries and that it will be promoted by the European Association for Behaviour Analysis for use in Masters level training.

**Themes:** \*\*\* Utilization and distribution of results  
 \*\*\* Quality  
 \*\*\* Intercultural learning  
 \*\*\* ICT  
 \*\*\* Lifelong learning  
 \*\*\* Open and distance learning  
 \*\*\* Access for disadvantaged  
 \*\*\* Equal opportunities  
 \*\*\* Continuous training  
 \*\*\* Initial training  
 \*\* Labor market

**Sectors:** \*\*\* Human Health and Social Work Activities

**Product Types:** teaching material  
 open and distance learning  
 material for open learning  
 DVD  
 CD-ROM  
 website

**Product information:** The translated "Simple Steps" training pack consists of a 52 page booklet which is supported by a DVD containing over 2 hours of video material (outlining basic techniques for understanding behaviour, increasing appropriate behaviours, and decreasing inappropriate behaviours), as well as a CD Rom containing useful resources for parents such as data collection sheets, token boards, toileting charts, etc. As part of the project the partners will provide 1000 copies of the pack in each

## Project Information

of the partner languages (Spanish, German, and Norwegian).

Project homepage:

## Project Contractor

Name: University of Ulster  
City: Coleraine  
Country/Region: Northern Ireland  
Country: UK-United Kingdom  
Organization Type: university/Fachhochschule/academy  
Homepage: <http://www.ulster.ac.uk>

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## Partner

### Partner 1

Name: Parents' Education as Autism Therapists (PEAT)  
City: Belfast  
Country/Region: Northern Ireland  
Country: UK-United Kingdom  
Organization Type: others  
Homepage: <http://www.peatni.org>

### Partner 2

Name: Fachhochschule Munster  
City: Munster  
Country/Region: Münster  
Country: DE-Germany  
Organization Type: university/Fachhochschule/academy  
Homepage: <http://www.fh-muenster.de>

### Partner 3

Name: The Treehouse Trust  
City: London  
Country/Region: Greater London  
Country: UK-United Kingdom  
Organization Type: others  
Homepage: <http://treehouse.org.uk>

### Partner 4

Name: Universidad de Oviedo  
City: Oviedo  
Country/Region: Principado de Asturias  
Country: ES-Spain  
Organization Type: university/Fachhochschule/academy  
Homepage:

## Partner

### Partner 5

Name: Hogskolen i Akershus  
City: Horten  
Country/Region: Oslo Og Akershus  
Country: NO-Norway  
Organization Type: university/Fachhochschule/academy  
Homepage: <http://hiak.no>

### Partner 6

Name: Queen's University Belfast  
City: Belfast  
Country/Region: Northern Ireland  
Country: UK-United Kingdom  
Organization Type: university/Fachhochschule/academy  
Homepage: <http://qub.ac.uk>

## Project Files

### 6195\_SS\_A5\_FLYER.pdf

[http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/4404/prj/6195\\_SS\\_A5\\_FLYER.pdf](http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/4404/prj/6195_SS_A5_FLYER.pdf)

Flyer for training pack

### SimpleStepsBox\_3D.jpg

[http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/4404/prj/SimpleStepsBox\\_3D.jpg](http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/4404/prj/SimpleStepsBox_3D.jpg)

Picture of finished pack

### Simple Steps - Computer.m4v

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/4404/prj/Simple%20Steps%20-%20Computer.m4v>

Short promo video of finished product

### STAMPPP Stormont.ppt

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/4404/prj/STAMPPP%20Stormont.ppt>

Presentation explaining contents of pack

### STAMPPP team Stormont Launch.JPG

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/4404/prj/STAMPPP%20team%20Stormont%20Launch.JPG>

Photos of STAMPPP Launch, Belfast Sept 2010

## Products

- 1 Simple Steps

## Product 'Simple Steps'

Title: Simple Steps

Product Type: DVD

Marketing Text: We are delighted to introduce the Simple Steps pack - an educational and information support tool to promote the benefits of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA). It has been developed by internationally renowned ABA specialists from Ireland and the UK, Spain, Norway and Germany with the help of parents of children with Autism. The pack materials teach you about ABA and show you how it can be used to help children on the Autism Spectrum. This pack will help you to understand why science-based interventions are effective for children with Autism. ABA interventions should be supervised by a qualified Behaviour Analyst.

Description: ABA Autism Training Pack

The pack contains a Brochure supported by backup multimedia materials.

- A multimedia DVD.
- A CD ROM of printable resources.
- A Notebook and Pen for you to record progress.
- And a Simple Steps stress toy for when you need to get a grip on the situation.

Target group: Parents and professionals dealing with autism.

Result: The DVD training pack is available in English, German, Spanish, and Norwegian

Area of application: Parent and professional training in Applied Behaviour Analysis

Homepage: [www.simplestepsautism.com](http://www.simplestepsautism.com)

Product Languages: English

## Project Tags

The project belongs to the following group(s):

Incl (<http://www.adam-europe.eu/adam/thematicgroup/INCL>)