

STAMPPP:

Launch of SimpleSteps for parents of children with autism

Parents of children diagnosed with autism face a bewildering range of 'treatments' for autism. International reviews, however, consistently point to the importance of using evidence-based practice to educate parents and children

(<http://www.nationalautismcenter.org/nsp/>).

A science of behaviour (Applied Behaviour Analysis) underpins the most effective treatments but there is a severe shortage of training courses across Europe to prepare professionals to meet the needs of parents and children (see www.bacb.com).

To address this concern, and the resulting myths about Applied Behaviour Analysis that have sprung up, Leonardo, part of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme is supporting an innovative project aimed at updating and translating a multimedia program first developed in N. Ireland by local charity [Parents' Education as Autism Therapists](http://www.peatni.org) (www.peatni.org).

The project is called STAMPPP (www.stamppp.com) and it involves partners from Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, and Iceland; translations will also be available in Portuguese, German, Spanish, and Norwegian. The multimedia program is called Simple Steps (www.simplestepsautism.com) and it uses video material in the form of parental testimonies, animations, demonstrations, and textural material to teach the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis.

The goal is to demonstrate how the practice of science impacts on how one maximises the learning opportunities for children with autism. If we can help parents become proficient in delivering home programs for their children, it will make it easier to coordinate these learning opportunities for the child with those provided within a school. Of course, will parents still need supervised by a professional trained in Applied Behaviour Analysis to international standards.

The launch date for the completed STAMPPP project is Sept 20th, which will take place in Belfast, N. Ireland (<http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/CentreforBehaviourAnalysis/EventsEducation/>) . For more information, contact Prof. Mickey Keenan at the University of Ulster (email: m.keenan@ulster.ac.uk) who leads the project.