



# IPA+

Autism- training for inclusion

## Module 2: Definition and conceptualization of autism



## 1. INTRODUCTION.

Welcome to the Module 2: Definition and conceptualization of autism.

In order for you to take the course properly, you should read this guide in which we specify the information relevant to the contents, practices and evaluation that will be delivered during the course.

This module aims to reinforce understanding of autism and its characteristics as well as a range of issues associated with autism. This module is very important and aims at deepening your knowledge of what autism is, and how it can be explained.

## 2. OBJECTIVES.

- Know the characteristics of autism
- To better understand the screening and diagnosis process
- Be aware of false beliefs that can be detrimental to autistic people.

## 3. COMPETENCES.

- To recognise the main characteristic features of autism
- To know about screening and the different diagnosis methods
- To know the main conditions that may be associated to autism and their impact on the quality of life of the person
- To be aware of the main misconceptions linked to autism

## 4. INDEX OF CONTENTS

### **Module 2: Definition and conceptualization of autism**

- Main characteristics of autism according to DSM-5.

- Signs of social communication deficits
- Signs of restricted/repetitive behavior
- Common issues associated with autism and comorbidities
- Important features to keep in mind when working with autistic people
- The processes and tools for assessing autism
- The 'Autism Checklist' as a first step to signaling autism
  - Questions within the checklist that can show if a child needs a follow-up referral
- Current understanding of the causes of autism
- Common misconceptions about autism causes and treatments
  - Vaccines
  - Gluten-free diets
  - Packing
  - Chelation
  - Bleach therapy

## 5. METHODOLOGY

### Activity 1.

View the presentation and the theoretical document of the module 1.

### Activity 2.

Read and analyze the article "One autism, several autisms. Phenotypic variability in autism spectrum disorders " by Amaia Hervás. Make a personal assessment of the article.

### Activity 3.

Characterization of a case.

You must select one of the resources that appear in the list that will be provided. These resources are short films, episodes from a series, books or films. Once you have familiarised yourself with the resources you will need to do the following:

- On the character with an Autism Spectrum Disorder appearing in the chosen resource, make a list autistic traits you observe.
- Use examples of behaviors of the person with autism that come out in the chosen resource and give an explanation
- Make a small personal reflection on the resource you have chosen. (Evaluate the image given of people with ASD, the myths or stereotypes that appear ...)

#### Activity 4.

Evaluation test.

There will be a test composed of 40 questions related to the module in which you will have to choose the correct option among 4 possible answers.

## 6. EVALUATION.

For the module to be considered approved it is necessary to:

- Have attended the lectures of module 2
- Have a passing grade in activities 2 and 3.
- Respond well to at least 50% of the evaluation test questions.

## 7. COMPLEMENTARY MATERIALS.

The following materials will be provided for the realization of the module:

- Module 1 document with the theoretical contents.
- Presentation on the contents of the module.
- Article "One autism, several autisms. Phenotypic variability in autism spectrum disorders " by Amaia Hervás
- Script for the realization of activity 2
- List of resources for the activity 3.
- Script for carrying out the activity 3.

- An evaluation test on the module (Once the first three activities have been carried out).
- Additional materials that you can consult related to the module.

## 8. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

- Hervás, A. (2016). Un autismo, varios autismos. Variabilidad fenotípica en los trastornos del espectro autista.
- Trastornos del Espectro del Autismo DSM 5. Criterios diagnósticos. Traducción de Rubén Palomo.
- Rivière, Á. (2001). ¿Qué nos pediría un autista? Siglo Cero: Revista Española sobre Discapacidad Intelectual, 32(193), 40-41.
- Fuentes-Biggi, J., Ferrari-Arroyo, M. J., Boada-Muñoz, L., Touriño-Aguilera, E., Artigas-Pallarés, J., Belinchón-Carmona, M....& Díez-Cuervo, A. (2006). Guía de buena práctica para el tratamiento de los trastornos del espectro autista. Rev Neurol, 43(7), 425-38.
- Barthélémy, C., Fuentes, J., Howlin, P., Van Der Gaag, R. (2000). Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Identification, understanding, intervention. Autism-Europe aisbl.

### Video links

- National Autistic Society (UK): What is autism?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4G0HTIUBII>