



Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

ECHO Ontario Autism Schedule - Cycle 7 (2024-2025)

Please note that each ECHO Ontario Autism session will be 2-hours long (11:30AM -1:30PM) and will include a didactic presentation (20 minutes) and discussion, 1 participant-generated case presentation (10 minutes), group discussion and recommendations (45 minutes)

Date	Topic/Presenter
Sept 24, 2024	What is autism? Presenter: Dr. Jessica Brian-Psychologist <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of autism• Core symptoms of autism & the DSM-5 criteria for an ASD diagnosis
October 8, 2024	Surveillance, screening and next steps Presenter: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The difference between surveillance and screening• Guideline recommendations in Canada• Understanding different ASD screening tools available and developing an approach to using them in your practice• What to do if there are developmental concerns identified
October 22, 2024	ASD Diagnosis Part 1: history and collateral information Presenter: Dr. Cecilia Lee-Developmental Paediatrician <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to introduce the ASD diagnostic assessment• What questions to ask to elicit ASD symptoms• Other essential components of the history• Strategies for collecting collateral information from daycare, schools, and other relevant people & places
November 5, 2024	ASD Diagnosis Part 2: observation, interaction, and physical examination Presenter: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategies for getting good observations throughout the assessment• Tips & tricks for informal interactions to elicit ASD symptoms• Important aspects of the physical examination
November 19, 2024	ASD Diagnosis Part 3: formulation, feedback and next steps Presenter: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician <i>This presentation will cover:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to prepare for the diagnostic feedback session• Balancing a structured approach and responding to family needs during the feedback• Connect to relevant information, resources, and funding



<p>November 27, 2024 9:00am-3:00pm</p>	<p>*Mini Medication Series*: Consists of three 1.5 hr. ECHO sessions covering Medications for ASD and ADHD, Anxiety and Irritability. Presenters: Dr. Cecilia Lee (Developmental Paediatrician), Dr. Melanie Penner (Developmental Paediatrician), and Dr. Danielle Baribeau (Child Psychiatrist). **Registration for this series is separate from the ongoing ECHO Autism Program. Registration will open in October**</p>
<p>December 3, 2024</p>	<p>Autism Acceptance Presenters: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician and Maddy Dever-Autistic Advocate/Parent <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of language used to speak about autism and behaviour • Developing sensitivity to the emotions experienced by families and how to build acceptance into clinical care • Increasing comfort level in addressing questions of curing/treating autism • The risks of non-acceptance
<p>December 17th, 2024</p>	<p>While you wait: what parents can do at home Presenter: Dr. Jessica Brian-Psychologist <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits & caveats of parent-mediated intervention • How to help parents: build social routines to foster relationships and promote social communication; manage repetitive play and intense interests; and build and expand on their child’s interests
<p>January 14, 2025</p>	<p>Principles of Autism Therapies: Presenters: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician and Justine Wiegelmann -BCBA <i>This presentation will cover: Evidence and practice in the following areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour • Speech • Occupational Therapy • What to look for in a qualified service provider • Goal setting
<p>January 28, 2025</p>	<p>OAP Update Presenter: Robin Hermolin- Social Worker <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process of applying for OAP funding • What services are covered • How to support parents through the process



February 11, 2025	<p>Culturally Responsive Diagnostic Assessments Presenter: Dr. Mohammad Zubairi-Developmental Paediatrician <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role culture plays in informing parent/caregiver understanding of child & youth development • How to access best possible information about our diverse children, youth and their families in our practice using autism-focused screening & diagnostic tools • How the language we use in our clinical encounters can help families digest the diagnostic, etiologic and prognostic information we provide
February 25, 2025	<p>Is it Sensory? Presenter: Moira Pena-Occupational Therapist <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 8 sensory systems • How sensory processing challenges may present • Recognizing the difference between sensory processing challenges and other co-occurring conditions
March 25, 2025	<p>Emotion Regulation: Clinical Concepts and Insights from Autistic People Presenters: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician and Dr. Christie Welch-Occupational Therapist <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concept of emotion regulation and its correlates • Risk factors for and of emotion regulation challenges • A structured clinical approach to assessing emotion regulation challenges • Management options • First person voices of emotion regulation from autistic children/youth/adults
April 8, 2025	<p>Screening for and managing medical comorbidities: seizures, sleep, constipation/GI Presenter: Dr. Cecilia Lee-Developmental Paediatrician <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening for and managing seizures in children with ASD • Screening, strategies and treatments to address sleep difficulties • Screening for and managing GI issues • Screening for pain
April 22, 2025	<p>School, special education and IEPs: role of the medical provider in supporting parents Presenter: Susan Cosgrove-Family Advisor <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process of special education in Ontario • Ideas of how to support parents through the process • Special needs education resources



<p>May 6, 2025</p>	<p>Taking a Behavioural History Presenter: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ABCs of a behavioural history • How to ask about co-occurring conditions • Medical contributors
<p>May 20, 2025</p>	<p>ADHD and ASD Presenter: Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou-Child Neurologist <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening, assessment, and diagnosis of ADHD in a child with ASD • A review of interventions (behaviour & medications)
<p>June 3, 2025</p>	<p>Anxiety, Depression and ASD Presenter: Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou-Child Neurologist <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of depression, anxiety and anxiety disorders in children with ASD • Differentiating symptoms of ASD from the symptoms of anxiety • A review of appropriate treatments as well as the role of medication in the management of depression, anxiety and anxiety disorders
<p>June 17, 2025</p>	<p>Irritability and ASD Presenter: Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou-Child Neurologist <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk factors for irritability • Assessments and interventions for irritability • Pharmacologic treatment and prescribing considerations • CAMESA Guidelines for monitoring medications
<p>July 15, 2025</p>	<p>ASD and puberty Presenter: Dr. Melanie Penner-Developmental Paediatrician <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do puberty and sexuality differ in ASD compared to typical development? • What are the key pieces of anticipatory guidance for puberty? • Guidance around masturbation • Management of menstruation
<p>July 29, 2025</p>	<p>Transition to Adulthood for Youth with ASD Presenter: Ullanda Niel-Family Physician <i>This presentation will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How and when to begin planning for transition • Best practice guidelines • Developmental disabilities primary care initiative (DDPCI) healthcare transition tool • Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) application process