



Relationship Development Intervention® (RDI)

www.RDIconnect.com

RDI is a cognitive-developmental treatment program that teaches parents how to guide their child to seek out and succeed in truly reciprocal relationships, while addressing key core issues such as motivation, communication, emotional regulation, episodic memory, rapid attention-shifting, self awareness, appraisal, executive functioning, flexible and creative problem solving.

Core Deficits of Autism:

- Relationship: Lack of intersubjective relationship between parent and child. Child does not engage in back and forth reciprocal interactions and therefore is unable to learn “through” the parent
- Social Communication: Lack the emotional and experience sharing communication or participating in shared activities. Lack of multi-channel communication
- Memory: Lack of episodic memory (i.e., if a child cannot remember being successful with challenges; they don’t develop the motivation or resilience to face future challenges)
- Dynamic Intelligence: Lacks flexible thinking for problem solving “everyday life” challenges and managing relationships.

The Guided Participation Relationship:

The Guided Participation Relationship is a guide/apprentice method of parenting that has been used across time and in every culture in order to teach children how to be knowledgeable and successful problem solvers in their world. Parents typically use this parenting style without even being aware of it. Characteristics of a Guided Participation Relationship include:

- The Guide and Apprentice each have authentic and meaningful roles
- The Guide sets up scaffolded opportunities for discovery and productive challenges within the child’s zone of proximal development
- The Apprentice references and internalizes the Guide’s thinking process
- This means all learning is through purposeful every day hands on activities.

RDI gives children with ASD a second chance to “Re-do” the normal developmental process in a slower, more deliberate manner allowing them to master milestones typical children achieve in early childhood.