

**Autism** training is designed to educate child welfare professionals about autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and how they can better serve, and support children and families affected by autism within the child welfare system. The training may cover a range of topics, including understanding the characteristics of autism, effective communication strategies, and available resources and services. These objectives are designed to equip child welfare professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide effective and supportive services to children with autism and their families while working within the child welfare system.

### **Proposed Objectives**

1. **Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD):** Child welfare professionals should gain a foundational understanding of autism, including the range of characteristics and symptoms that may be present in individuals with ASD.
2. **Early Identification and Diagnosis:** Learn how to recognize potential signs of autism in children and the importance of early identification and diagnosis.
3. **Effective Communication:** Develop skills in communicating with children with autism, including using visual supports, sensory accommodations, and other strategies to promote effective interaction.
4. **Supporting Families:** Understand the unique challenges and stressors faced by families with children on the autism spectrum and learn how to provide appropriate support and resources to assist these families.
5. **Navigating Services and Resources:** Familiarize child welfare professionals with available services and resources for children with autism and their families, including educational, therapeutic, and community-based options.
6. **Trauma-Informed Care:** Recognize the potential for trauma in children with autism and how to provide trauma-informed care, taking into account sensory sensitivities and communication challenges.
7. **Collaboration with Other Professionals:** Learn how to collaborate with healthcare providers, therapists, educators, and other professionals involved in the care of children with autism to ensure a holistic approach to support.