

FLOORTIME ATLANTA
Blackstone Center
1777 Northeast Expressway NE
Suite #175
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

DIR®/FLOORTIME™ PARENT TRAINING COURSE

DIR/Floortime is a way of intervening with children who have difficulty communicating and relating. It has been developed and described by Drs. Stanley Greenspan and Serena Wieder. This course is based on their most recent book *Engaging Autism: Using the Floortime Approach To Help Children Relate, Communicate and Think*.

DIR (Developmental, Individualized, Relationship-Based) is a comprehensive treatment approach based on each child's unique developmental profile. Floortime is a strategy at the center of the DIR model.

Floortime focuses on creating emotionally meaningful learning interactions. The goal is to tune in to each child's unique individual profile and then to tailor our interactions to help bring each child into a shared world of communicating, relating and thinking. By building on spontaneous interactions and harnessing on each child's natural interests, we can promote, support and solidify the developmental steps that underlie social, emotional, and cognitive development. These include:

- Attention and regulation
- Engagement: bringing your child into a shared world
- Two-way communication and social problem-solving
- Complex problem-solving: using symbols, ideas and words
- Creating representations: logical thinking and the real world
- Higher levels of abstract and reflective thinking

In this course you will learn to

- Create a Floortime home program for your child.
- Follow your child's lead and begin to develop a continuous flow of communication.
- Build on your child's special strengths and interests to increase interaction.
- Foster communicative initiative.
- Play with toys more flexibly to foster pretend play and abstract thinking.
- Learn about your child's unique sensory profile and how to work with it.
- Set up a space that can make it easier to engage your child in Floortime.
- Include siblings in the play.
- Recruit and train family members, high school students and others to be part of the team.

This course is led by Barbara Dunbar, Ph.D. and Carol Spadafora, M.Ed. Dr. Dunbar has worked closely with Dr. Greenspan and Dr. Wieder since 1992 and is a member of the national DIR faculty. Her practice focuses on working with young children with special needs and their families. Ms. Spadafora had a Floortime program for her 2 sons for several years. She now teaches at The Lionheart School and works with families on Floortime home programs.

Course Schedule: Five weekly meetings
Dates: Thursday, April 12, 19, May 3, 10, and 17, 2012.
Time: 7 to 9 pm.
Location: Floortime Atlanta, 1777 Northeast Expressway NE
Suite #175, Atlanta.
Cost: The course is for parents only and enrollment is limited to 8 families. The cost is \$375 per family.
For more info: Contact Ellen Robinson at 404-378-1423.