



DIR 201: essential floortime skills for DIR®/ Floortime™ practitioners



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for students who have a basic understanding of the theoretical foundations of the DIR® model and who wish to do effective Floortime with children with special needs.

Strategic and finely-tuned Floortime requires the ability to view the child within the context of a larger DIR framework. Students will learn to put together a basic profile of a child that includes an understanding of the model's three component parts:

D (Functional) Developmental Level
I Individual Differences
R Relationship Patterns

Students will explore and practice a range of Floortime strategies and techniques geared toward challenging a child to move to higher levels within a session and making developmental progress over time. Students will present video of their sessions and brainstorm ways to make their work more effective.

This course is the second of three courses which leads to a DIR/Floortime Basic Certificate (DIR-Basic).

Credit Information

Students may also be able to apply for Massachusetts Early Intervention Competencies.

Course tuition for Continuing Education students is **\$390** (includes a \$90 ICDL fee), payable to the Astra Foundation.

Course Objectives

Students will:

- Continue to develop their understanding of the theoretical foundations of the DIR model
- Demonstrate an understanding of key Floortime principles and explore/practice a variety of Floortime strategies and techniques
- Learn to modify their Floortime based on a particular child's profile (sensory, processing, regulatory, etc.)
- Learn how the FEAS and other tools may be used to refine the understanding of a child's profile and to develop more focused and strategic Floortime goals.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how everyday opportunities and semi-structured activities may be used to mobilize all six developmental levels.
- Be able to discuss how the DIR model and other structured teaching methods (e.g. Applied Behavioral Analysis, O.T., Speech) can work together in an effective program
- Learn to write a report assessing a child's functional developmental level and individual profile and formulating specific, measurable goals for the child.
- Be encouraged to reflect on their own strengths and weaknesses and how their own individual profiles impact their work
- Be encouraged to develop (where possible) collaborative relationships with the child's family and/or other members of the child's team
- Discuss how DIR may be used as a framework for working with a child regardless of discipline.

Faculty

- **Deborah Bauch, M.S., O.T.R./L.** has more than twenty-five years' experience in pediatrics and sensory integration. As the clinical director of the Center for Neurodiverse Development, she conducts classes and workshops for parents and professionals and has presented at local, regional, and national conferences. Deborah is a Training Leader and Expert DIR/Floortime provider for the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders (ICDL). She holds a Certificate in Infant Parent Mental Health and is certified in Sensory Integration. Deborah also consults to schools, works with children and families, and serves as a mentor for professionals. She is the 2008 recipient of the Margaret I. Bauman award for outstanding therapy provider.

Maria Albarran, MA-CCC, Bilingual SLP has more than 15 years experience as a pediatric Speech Language Therapist practicing Floortime. As the program coordinator for the speech-language pathologists in her Early Intervention Program, she teaches, trains and mentors therapists and parents in neurodiverse affirming practices to incorporate Floortime into their everyday lives. She is a Training Leader and Expert DIR® Floortime™ provider for ICDL (Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders) and has taught DIR courses to multidisciplinary audiences.. She is a LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) Fellow and holds a certificate in Diversity in Early Relationship Support.