

# Current Professional Development Workshops

## Brought to You By: The Hangout Spot, LLC.

The Hangout Spot, LLC is pleased to offer the following professional development workshop opportunities. All workshops are rooted in the science of Applied Behavior Analysis, defined as the science of learning and behavior, and facilitated by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst . All workshops also include access to a free *Parenting Guide* download related to the training content, which can be used as a resource for the purpose of parent training and support. Connect with us to set up a PD workshop at your organization today!

### **Less Emojis, More Emotions: Transitioning from Technology Time to Social Time**

Today's children are growing up in a world that is inundated with technology, and unfortunately, excessive use of video games, social media, and other technology-related platforms can be detrimental to a child's social development. This workshop first identifies the risks excessive use of technology can present to a child's well-being and provides a forum in which participants can discuss the challenges they encounter when working with children in today's technology-driven world. Then, participants receive evidence-based training on ten easy, highly effective strategies they can implement to successfully replace excessive technology-use with quality social time.

### **Understanding the Play Progression: What to Look For and When to Act**

Play is an essential component of healthy child development, and as children grow, they progress through various play milestones. Having a general sense of how children's play typically evolves can support effective intervention and guide professionals in selecting developmentally-appropriate activities for playtime. In this workshop, participants gain an in-depth understanding of what constitutes age-appropriate play across the developmental progression, learn to identify warning signs that additional supports may be needed, and are empowered to select toys and activities that promote play learning.

### **Quality Indicators of Effective Play and Social Skills Instruction**

Play and social development is incredibly nuanced and complex. Providers are faced with the daunting challenge of teaching historically "soft skills" in a way that ensures growth and displays data-driven progress. The options can be confusing, and professionals often find themselves pulling from an assortment of curricula with the lingering worry- "will this actually work?" This workshop empowers professionals to distinguish between a high-quality, evidence-based play/social skills program and an ineffective intervention unlikely to promote progress, thus allowing them to carry forward quality indicators in their own practice.

## Presenters

**Justyna Balzar, M.Ed. BCBA LBA (CT)** and **Meghan Cave, M.Ed. BCBA LBA (CT)** are the Co-Founders and Chief Executive Officers of The Hangout Spot, LLC, coming soon to Fairfield County as Connecticut's first center using the **fundamentals** of science to foster social smarts by providing instruction in a safe, fun, inclusive "home away from home" environment. The Hangout Spot is a behavior analytic social skills development center where we believe that all children have a right to meaningful relationships with others. We strive to eliminate barriers to friendship and empower children to be socially successful across the lifespan using the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. Everything we do is rooted in research, empirically validated, and proven to work. We conceptualize critical, previously considered "tricky to teach" skills through a scientific

framework. In doing so, we achieve socially significant change for our clients, by providing the support they need to develop real connections with other people beyond our walls.

To learn more and follow our grand opening, visit [www.thehangoutspotllc.com](http://www.thehangoutspotllc.com), and connect with us on Facebook or Instagram @thehangoutspotllc.