About the presenter:

Dr. Monteiro is a Licensed Psychologist and Licensed Specialist in School Psychology in independent practice in Dallas, Texas who specializes in autism spectrum disorders. She frequently provides autism team training and presentations on autism spectrum disorders nationally and internationally. She has evaluated thousands of children and continues to evaluate children suspected of having an autism spectrum disorder in schools as part of her independent practice.

Her evaluation instrument for clinicians to evaluate verbal children suspected of having Asperger’s Syndrome or high-functioning autism, the Monteiro Interview Guidelines for Diagnosing Asperger’s Syndrome: A Team-Based Approach (MIGDAS), is published by Western Psychological Services and has gained international use in schools and clinics by autism evaluation teams. Her book, “Autism Conversations: Evaluating Children on the Autism Spectrum through Authentic Conversations,” also published by Western Psychological Services, is widely used as a handbook for autism evaluation practitioners.

Dr. Monteiro thoroughly enjoys having conversations with individuals on the autism spectrum.

The Region 1 Autism Education Consortium is pleased to offer the following workshop:

Autism Conversations: Best Practice Evaluation Tools

This workshop is appropriate for school psychologists and others that are involved in evaluating students with autism spectrum disorders.

Presented by:

Marilyn Monteiro, Ph.D.
About the workshop:

This one-day training provides practitioners with current information regarding the identification of and intervention planning for children with suspected autism spectrum differences. Participants will be introduced to a conceptual framework in line with the diagnostic criteria changes in the proposed DSM V. The framework will help clinicians recognize and describe autism spectrum differences in practical and readily accessible terms. Participants will learn to recognize the hallmark characteristics of all levels of autism spectrum differences and the unique presentation of this developmental difference in girls.

This training teaches clinicians how to effectively interview children and their parents to obtain a detailed, descriptive qualitative behavior sample. Specifically, participants will learn how to conduct a "neuro-atypical" conversation with a child using sensory toys and topics to elicit the behavior sample. Through video examples, participants will be guided to use descriptive language to identify the key differences in development the child displays during the interview process. They will be provided with specific guidelines to assist them in using the "neuro-atypical" conversation interview technique as part of their autism evaluation toolkit.

Participants will also learn to conduct a parent interview using a conversational approach. The structure of the conversational interview promotes trust between parents and the evaluation team, as parents are encouraged to tell stories about their child as they respond to the interview questions. Participants will gain an understanding of the ambiguous grief process and how that affects the interview process. Particular attention will be paid to teaching participants how to discuss the diagnosis with parents in individualized terms, using nontechnical language and a visual framework to promote understanding and family resiliency.

Differential diagnosis factors will be discussed and participants will be provided with the necessary descriptive language to effectively differentiate between levels of autism, attention deficit disorders, specific learning disabilities, and intellectual disabilities.

Clinicians will be guided through the process of linking the diagnostic process to the development of effective intervention strategies. Handouts will include practical suggestions for participants to enhance their autism diagnostic skills.

Participants will be introduced to the following best practice autism assessment tools: Childhood Autism Rating Scale-Second Edition (CARS2), Monteiro Interview Guidelines for Diagnosing Asperger’s Syndrome (MIGDAS), Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS), Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS) and the Autism Spectrum Rating Scales (ASRS).

When:
   October 25, 2012

Time:
   8:30 - 3:30 pm

Where:
   Fulghum Center
   4003 Cogbill Road
   Richmond, Va. 23234

Cost:
   Free for Region 1 Schools

Lunch:
   On your own

Registration:
   Contact—
   Carrie Radigan
   (804)365-8127
   (leave message)
   radiganct@vcu.edu

Please register by:
   October 5, 2012