

Part B Project Summary

Project Title: Implementation of Theory of Mind (ToM) Learning Activities: Teaching Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (推行想法解讀教學活動：教導自閉症兒童)

Name of Organization: Hong Kong Institute of Education

(1) Goals:

The aim of this project is to strengthen the skills of teachers in implementing theory of mind (ToM) activities to teach students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The proposed activities of the existing ToM teaching packages will be used to train the students with ASD the recognition of emotions and mental states. Teachers of participating schools will be provided the opportunity to have lesson observation during the cross-site visitation. Teachers' professional skills will be strengthened by this opportunity to receive prompt, constructive feedback from colleagues. The training materials will also be compiled into a revised version of ToM teaching package. Guidelines will be given to teachers to design programmes for students with ASD of different levels of grades and special needs. This is important for teachers to locate suitable teaching activities for students with ASD under the 3-tier support system. In addition, home-school partnerships are also encouraged for the implementation of the ToM activities.

(2) Targets:

Expected number of beneficiaries:

- (i) 28 ordinary and special schools (training programme)
- (ii) All primary and special schools (dissemination seminar)

(3) Implementation Plan:

- (i) Duration: 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2012 (30 months)
- (ii) Process / Schedule:

Phase 1 (April 2010 to October 2011)

- (i) Revising and designing the ToM learning materials
- (ii) Conducting a workshop for teachers
- (iii) Conducting instructional programme for target children
- (iv) Cross-site visitations for peer observation
- (v) Compiling the teaching and learning materials for the first teaching package
- (vi) Conducting seminars for teachers

Phase 2 (September 2011 to September 2012)

- (i) Designing teaching materials
- (ii) Conducting a workshop for teachers
- (iii) Conducting instructional programme for target children
- (iv) Inviting parents to have the lesson observation
- (v) Conducting seminars for teachers

(4) Products:

Phase 1 (April 2010 to October 2011)

- (i) A workshop for teachers of participating schools
- (ii) A school-based training programme for children with ASD
- (iii) A dissemination seminar for teachers of ordinary and special schools
- (iv) A new version of ToM teaching package
- (v) A checklist for the implementation of ToM activities

Phase 2 (September 2011 to September 2012)

- (i) A workshop for teachers of participating schools
- (ii) A workshop for parents
- (iii) A school-based training programme for children with ASD

(5) Budget:

- (i) Staff Cost: \$626,126
 - (ii) Service : \$284,800
 - (iii) General Expenses: \$900,030
 - (iv) Contingency: \$35,544
- Total amount: \$1,846,500

(6) Evaluation:

- (i) Performance indicators:
 - Evaluative feedback on the observation of each teaching lesson in the peer visitation
 - Reflective reports on using the proposed ToM activities
- (ii) Outcome measurements:
 - The effectiveness of the new ToM teaching package on teaching students with ASD
 - The applicability of the checklist to design teaching programmes to students with ASD