This workshop will describe a social/behavioral learning strategy (SODA) that teaches students (K-12) with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) how to successfully navigate social situations. SODA teaches students with ASD how to decode the social behavior and communication of others. It also teaches these students how to use SODA to guide their own social behavior and communication. SODA is easy to teach. Teaching occurs one-to-one for about 15 minutes a day. Students with ASD usually learn to use SODA in 6 to 8 weeks. SODA is designed to be taught to students with ASD by special educators, general educators, parents or other family members, and paraeducators.

Participants will learn to:

• Describe SODA and its key components
• Individualize SODA teaching materials for students with ASD
• Use the research-supported teaching strategies associated with SODA
• Collect data to analyze the effects of SODA for students with ASD levels

Featured Presenter

Marj Bock, Ed.D., has worked with students with ASD, their teachers, and their family members for over 30 years. Since developing SODA in her own classroom, she has conducted several studies to investigate SODA’s effect on the abilities of students with ASD to navigate social situations. Her SODA research has been identified nationally as one of the “promising” new interventions for students with ASD. Over the past 15 years Marj has taught over 500 educators and parents how to effectively implement SODA with students with ASD. In addition to her work with SODA, Marj has developed and directed the Global Rural Autism Asperger Information Network (GRAAIN) at the University of North Dakota.