

# MORE THAN WORDS®

The Hanen Program ® for Parents  
of Children with Autism Spectrum  
Disorder



Presented by:

**OTA the Koomar Center**

Over 25,000 Speech Language Pathologists and other professionals in 100 countries use the research-based Hanen model of parent/caregiver implemented intervention in their work with parents and caregivers of young children. The **More than Words**® program is one of many programs for parents and educators that was created by the Hanen Centre.



# DID YOU KNOW?

- A caregiver's involvement in early language intervention is crucial to the success of intervention.
- The earlier a family is involved, the better the outcomes for the child



- Rossetti, L.M. (2001). *Communication intervention: Birth to three*. San Diego: Singular Publishing Group
- Bronfenbrenner, U. (1974). *Is early intervention effective?* (Publication No. (CDH) 74-25). Washington, DC: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office of Child Development.



# BENEFITS OF THE **MORE THAN WORDS**® PROGRAM

- Parents and caregivers will learn to use responsive interaction strategies to help their child reach their full communication potential
- Strategies are easy to implement within everyday activities, such as mealtime, story time, bath time, etc.



During the More than Words ® Program, parents and caregivers will learn practical ways to help their child in some of the following ways:



1) Engaging in  
back-and-forth  
interactions



2) More mature  
ways of  
communicating



3) Communicating  
for social  
purposes



4) Improving  
their  
understanding of  
language



# WHO CAN ATTEND A MORE THAN WORDS® PROGRAM?

- Families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or social-communication difficulties



# WHAT DO PARENTS SAY ABOUT THE *MORE THAN WORDS*® PROGRAM?

- “My son has made incredible strides due to your program. He has surprised a lot of people. What I really love about the program is that we are taught to work with our children. After all, an SLP may see them once a week, but we are with them around the clock, so if we can help with their speech it is actually a more beneficial situation for the children. Your course is invaluable and a must-do for parents, relatives and friends. I am forever grateful”  
– Debra, mother of 4-year-old Anthony



# WHAT DO RESEARCHERS SAY ABOUT THE MORE THAN WORDS ® PROGRAM?

“Toddlers who demonstrated minimal interest in toys before their parents attended the *More Than Words* Program showed significant gains in their communication, generalizing new skills to new contexts and strange adults and maintaining these changes for four months post-treatment “ (**Carter, Messinger, Stone, Celimli, Nahmias, & Yoder, 2011**

“The children whose parents attended *More Than Words* had larger reported vocabularies, regardless of whether they had confirmed or non-confirmed autism.”  
**McConachie , Randle, & Le Couteur, 2005)**

- Carter, A., Messinger, D., Stone, W., Celimli, S., Nahmias, A., & Yoder, P. (2011) A Randomized controlled trial of Hanen’s “more than Words” in toddlers with early autism. *The Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 52(7), 741-752
- McConachie, H., Randle, V. & Le Couteur (2005). A controlled trial of a training course for parents of children with suspected autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Pediatrics*. 147, 335-340.



# MORE THAN WORDS® PROGRAM INFORMATION:

- The 12 week program consists of:
  - A pre-program consultation with pre-testing
  - 8 training sessions for parents in small personalized groups
  - 3 individual consultations with video feedback



# WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

- Email or Call Sarah Friel to sign up or for any further questions
  - [SFriel@otathekoomarcenter.com](mailto:SFriel@otathekoomarcenter.com)
  - 617-969-4410 X 281
- Visit the Hanen Centre Website for more information about other parent resources for children with autism and language delay:
  - <http://www.hanen.org/Programs/For-Parents/More-Than-Words.aspx>

