#### 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





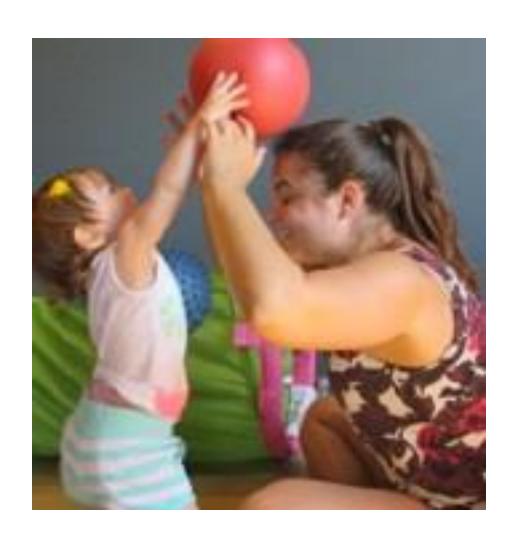
2) More mature ways of communicating





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?

- o "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 posttreatment " (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. (2001) 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 pretesting
  - 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
  - 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

