



Selective Mutism Project, Training Provided Adventure Camp 5-day Intensive

Selective Mutism is defined by the American Psychiatric Association as a “consistent failure to speak in specific social situations (in which there is an expectation for speaking, e.g., at school) despite speaking in other situations.” If you have not encountered a child with SM, it is likely you will. Selective mutism is not as rare as once believed; recent studies show an increase in prevalence rates of 1 in 140 children.

Advanced Therapeutic Solutions (ATS) aims to provide innovative evidence-based treatments for anxiety disorders. ATS launched Adventure Camp in 2011, which aims to provide intensive treatment to help children with SM. In addition to providing treatment, a secondary project goal is to bring awareness and training to others who may not otherwise know how to work with a child who is selectively mute. **Adventure Camp is a 5-day (30 hrs) intensive treatment** for children ages 4 to 13. It is an in-vivo, in-situ exposure therapy program that systematically desensitizes children to a classroom school setting 1-2 weeks before their actual school starts. Each child is assigned a camp counselor who is trained in the AC intervention. The counselor coaches the child through the simulated school day, in a real classroom, using the AC skills. Skills include shaping, fading, modeling, systematic desensitization, and contingent reinforcement.

ATS serves children and families in the Chicago suburb of Oak Brook and surrounding areas, as well as out-of-state families who travel to receive this innovative intensive treatment. For more information, visit www.SelectiveMutismTreatment.net.

Recruitment Posting

Recruiting therapists of all levels/various disciplines to train for innovative camp for children with selective mutism (SM). This free training is supervised by licensed clinical psychologist, Carmen Lynas, Ph.D. Must commit to initial two-day training (June 21-22), five supervised hours to practice program intervention (tentatively scheduled between July 16 – Aug 1), and camp week (Aug 5 – Aug 9).-Excellent training and networking opportunity, previous experience with SM not required. Ideal for those seeking a time-limited summer project with additional practicum/field work. Therapists of all levels (including grad students), teachers, school SW, psychologists, psychiatrists, SLPs, OTs, and others who may encounter a child with SM in their work and interested in gaining more knowledge/experience can benefit. E-mail cover letter, curriculum vitae, and two letters of recommendation to CounselorTraining@AdvancedTherapeuticSolutions.org.

Location: Oak Brook, IL (about 17 miles west of Chicago)

Level: Open to all levels, from entry level to experienced.

Cost: Training is free; ATS’ goal is to spread SM awareness and training to address the shortage of effective treatment available to children and families dealing with SM.

Dates Required: Two-day training June 21-22; minimum of 5 lead-in sessions before camp (scheduled between July 16-Aug 1); Adventure Camp dates (Aug 5 – Aug 9). Out-of-town applicants are welcome to apply¹

Accepting Applications: Jan 21st and rolling applications through April 1st

Application Requirements: Email materials to CounselorTraining@AdvancedTherapeuticSolutions.org

- Cover letter stating your interest in selective mutism, your relevant skills, and why you are a good candidate for this free training.
- CV or Résumé
- 2 letters of recommendation, with “Recommendation for [NAME]” in the subject line

Thank you for your interest in helping children with Selective Mutism!

[Click Here for More Information](#)

¹ Contact Dr. Carmen Lynas for additional information.