



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 for Anxiety (ATSA) aims to provide innovative evidence-based treatments for anxiety disorders. ATSA 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 14¹. 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, counter-conditioning, and differential contingent reinforcement.

ATSA serves children and families in the Chicago suburb of Oak Brook and surrounding areas, as well as out-of-state families who travel² 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 25-26), five supervised hours to practice program intervention (scheduled between July 13 – July 29), and camp week (Aug 2 – Aug 6).-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; ATSA's goal is to spread SM awareness and training to address the shortage of effective treatment available to children and families coping with SM.

Dates Required: Two-day training June 25-26; minimum of 5 lead-in sessions before camp (scheduled between July 13 – July 29); Adventure Camp dates (Aug 2 – Aug 6). Out-of-town applicants are welcome to apply.³

Accepting Applications: rolling applications until all slots fill.

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 Older ages considered on a case-by-case basis.

² ATSA is strictly adhering to [Chicago's Emergency Travel Order](#), [Cook County Public Health Travel Guidance](#), and [Illinois Department of Public Health Travel Guidance](#).

³ Contact Dr. Carmen Lynas for additional information.

Contact Information: Carmen Lynas, Ph.D. DrLynas@AdvancedTherapeuticSolutions.org