

GROUP PRESENTATION

The Substance of the New Easter Seals Project ACTION “Introduction To Travel Training” Course

**Facilitated by Mary Rieglmayer, Cleveland, OH; Frances Rankos, Lakewood, WA;
Kevin Welch, Sacramento, CA**

This presentation was led by three ATI members who helped to prepare the materials for ESPA’s “Introduction To Travel Training” course, which was started at three locations in the Spring of 2008. This course is intended to train new travel trainers in the basics of travel training. Easter Seals Project ACTION plans to hold four “Introduction To Travel Training” courses in early 2009. For more information visit <http://projectaction.easterseals.com>.

- The presenters stressed the importance of assessments of travel training students: knowing, understanding, and teaching the skills that each student needs to learn well is the key to successful travel training
- New travel trainers must also fully understand the environment that they are training in order to have students complete a travel training course successfully
- Another area of importance is the development of the “travel instruction plan” for each student: a task analysis must be developed for each student based on individual need, and each task must be broken down into smaller tasks that must be taught to the student
- Other travel training sessions in the ESPA Course include:

Street Crossings

Public Conveyance Systems (escalators, elevators, moving walkways, and power-operated doors)

Boarding Skills (teaching trainees the safest way to board a public transportation vehicle)

Vehicle Features

Emergency Escape Procedures

Using Foldable Seats and Securement Areas

Using Fare Machines

Being Prepared for Emergencies

Each student in the ESPA “Introduction To Travel Training” program receives a “toolkit” in both CD and print formats. Each student also receives assignments that must be completed before their arrival at the training session, as well as during the training itself.

This intensive three day program is geared to enable each student to return to their agency and to begin to train students immediately. Added to the early 2009 “Introduction To Travel Training” events will be a new module entitled “Emergency Preparedness in Transit Systems/Vehicles.”