

What You Will Learn

A Complete Three-Pillar Curriculum

Our curriculum is structured around the three core areas of knowledge every effective shadow teacher must master. You will move from building a strong theoretical foundation, to learning proven teaching strategies, to developing the classroom and behavioural management skills needed to support autistic children with confidence, consistency, and care.

MODULE 1 — Foundations of Autism: Theory and Understanding

Theory Module

To support an autistic child effectively, you must first truly understand autism. This module builds the foundational knowledge that informs every decision you will make as a shadow teacher.

Topics covered:

What autism is — and what it is not

The autism spectrum: understanding the diversity of profiles and presentations

Neurological and developmental perspectives on autism

Sensory processing differences and how they affect learning and behaviour

Communication profiles: verbal, non-verbal, and AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication)

Co-occurring conditions and individual support needs

Strengths-based and neurodiversity-affirming approaches to working with autistic children

MODULE 2 — Teaching Strategies for Autistic Learners

Strategy Module

Understanding autism is the foundation. Knowing how to teach effectively is the structure built on top of it. This module equips you with a toolkit of evidence-based teaching strategies tailored to the needs of autistic learners.

Topics covered:

Individualized instruction and meaningful differentiation

Structured teaching methodology (TEACCH approach)

Visual supports, schedules, and environmental cue systems

Prompt hierarchies and prompt-fading techniques

Reinforcement strategies and motivation systems

Social skills development approaches

Supporting children through transitions and routine changes

MODULE 3 — Classroom Management and Behavioral Support

Management Module

A shadow teacher's role extends beyond instruction. You must be equipped to support a child within a broader classroom environment — maintaining calm, preventing escalation, and fostering a space where the child can feel safe and ready to learn.

Topics covered:

Understanding behavior as communication

Proactive vs. reactive classroom management strategies

Creating sensory-safe, autism-friendly learning environments

De-escalation techniques and crisis prevention

Positive Behavior Support (PBS) frameworks

Collaborating effectively with classroom teachers, therapists, and families

Documentation, observation, and progress monitoring

Headline:

Practical Training: The Heart of Our Program

Body:

Unlike courses that stop at theory and strategy, our training includes direct, supervised practical experience working hands-on with autistic children. You will apply the skills you have learned in real environments, receive expert guidance in the moment, and leave the program genuinely prepared to work — not just certified on paper. This is the component that makes Hope Centre graduates stand out.