I. TRAINING
Training is a process. ADOS-2 training is a formal, in-person workshop and ongoing practice under supervision.

- Attend the formal training workshop at UMN or provided by a certified independent trainer. ADOS-2: 2-day Clinical training and 2 ½-day Research training.
- Watch pre-course training videos provided to you by UMN. ADOS-2 videos are distributed at the Clinical training, and you are given their completed protocols and scores. Watch the administrations with notes in hand, and look through the codes afterward. For this exercise, you should focus on what notes the examiners took (because these are important observations that you should be making), and how and where different behaviors were coded. Follow up with Amy Esler (amy.esler@gmail.com) if you have any questions about administration or coding.

II. ESTABLISHING RELIABILITY
You must establish reliability on the ADOS-2 before you begin to collect data for the research project. There are two factors in establishing your reliability:

- showing that you have learned the standardized administration procedures
- showing that you understand coding rules and have achieved at least 80% agreement on both the protocol and the diagnostic algorithm

Wherever possible, we highly recommend you work with someone who is already reliable on the ADOS-2 regularly while working to get reliable. First, observe a couple of their administrations. Then, with them in the room, begin to administer parts of the ADOS-2. Eventually, give the whole ADOS-2. After each administration, go over scoring with the reliable examiner. You should plan on at least 3 months of regular training on the ADOS-2 before expecting to be reliable and ready to collect data using the ADOS-2.

A. Demonstrate standardized administration procedures.
You must demonstrate your understanding of standardized administration procedures on 3 separate administrations of modules 1 / 2 and 3 separate administrations of modules 3 / 4. We must see you give all four modules at some point in the training and reliability process. Demonstrations of administration procedures can include:
1. Administrations you do during the training workshop
2. Administrations you send to UMN (or brought with you to the training) to review administration only
3. Your final reliability administration submitted to UMN to review for administration AND reliable coding.

B. Establish reliability with UMN training staff in coding the measures
You must reach 80% agreement on the ADOS-2 with UMN on 3 administrations. Agreement is calculated separately for the diagnostic algorithm and for the protocol in total, and you must achieve 80% agreement on both. Administrations for achieving reliability in coding include:
1. Administrations during the training workshop
2. Your scoring of the administration on the post-course video we send home with you after the training workshop
Send your scores for the post-course videos to Amy Esler (amy.esler@gmail.com); UMN training staff will calculate reliability and email you our protocols and codes for them so you can see where you disagreed (and why).

b. If you are not reliable on one or more of these videos, we will send you another.

c. You must be reliable on the post-course tapes before moving to step 3, which is sending us your own video.

3. Your **final reliability administration** submitted to UMN for reliability scoring

*Note:* We strongly recommend, before sending a video of yourself for reliability scoring, you should have at least one reliable administration with a reliable examiner (see notes in Section II, above).

**NOTE:** If you submit your final reliability administrations within 6 months of the training workshop, the workshop fee will cover scoring and feedback. We will charge $250 per administration to score and provide feedback on ADOS’s submitted more than 6 months after the training, or on additional rounds of scoring/feedback if your first submission was not reliable.

### III. PLAN B: ACHIEVING RELIABILITY WITH SOMEONE AT YOUR SITE

*If you work with someone who has established reliability on the ADOS-2,* you can complete the steps of establishing reliability with that person, as long as you are working at the same physical site and have frequent (i.e., daily) contact to talk about coding and administration issues. To establish reliability with someone at your site, you must achieve 80% agreement in coding with the ADOS-2-reliable examiner across 3 consecutive administrations of Modules 1 / 2 and 3 consecutive administrations of Modules 3 / 4. Within these 6 administrations, all 4 modules must be represented. Your ADOS-2-reliable examiner also must see you administer all 4 modules at some point during the reliability process. We recommend that you and the reliable examiner double-score administrations (that is, code an administration independently, then check your reliability with one another) until you have established 80% agreement with one another on 3 independently scored administrations of the ADOS-2. This can include the videos we have given you.

**Training Others at Your Site**

After you establish reliability, you can then train research group members who are in the same physical location as you are. Collaborators must be physically at the same site. Thus, though the University of Minnesota and University of North Carolina are collaborating, they are not in the same location. Even though the University of Chicago and Northwestern University are in the same city, they are not the same site. We recommend that, with colleagues at your site, you double-score administrations (that is, code an administration independently, then check your reliability with one another) until you have established 80% agreement among yourselves on three independently scored administrations of the ADOS-2. This can include the DVDs we have given you. We request that you only train people who are in your immediate research group (who are at the same site as you are and whom you see on a daily basis).

**Training People at Other Sites**

There is a process for becoming an independent trainer on the ADOS-2. This training is only available through Weill-Cornell’s training program, directed by Dr. Catherine Lord:

Maintaining Reliability over Time

It is also important to establish procedures for maintenance of reliability. We recommend that you double-score and reassess reliability for approximately 1 of every 5 administrations of the ADOS-2, depending on how frequently you give it. The point of the ADOS-2 training is to have well-documented reliability across sites, so this is very important. It is easy for even very skilled clinicians to "drift" in scoring if there is not frequent discussion and a chance to compare independently made scores.

We have provided a checklist to help you keep track of your reliability process.

If you have any questions about Reliability attainment, please contact Amy Esler.  
amy.esler@gmail.com  
612-626-6340