

# Role of the ASD Nest Coach

The ASD Nest program also trains and mentors identified ASD Nest Coaches to increase the level of professional expertise at ASD Nest program schools. These coaches provide on-site support to their school's Nest staff and act as liaisons to the ASD Nest Support Project. The coaches are experienced special educators who receive additional graduate-level training and support, thus becoming highly-qualified "point-persons," committed to advancing the ASD Nest program at their schools. The coach is not a supervisory position, nor does he/she function in an evaluative capacity.

## Overarching goals of the Nest Coaching Program:

- **Increase internal capacity:** It provides advanced training and mentoring support to experienced Nest professionals who then become an on-site ASD Nest resource at their school
- **Increase communication:** It establishes a point-person who can work directly with his/her principal to be the liaison between the school and the ASD Nest Support Project
- **Increase fidelity of implementation of the model:** It ensures that each school is implementing the Nest model guidelines and adhering to program protocols

## Responsibilities:

- Nest Coaches take two graduate courses in the Hunter College BCBA program and attend five Nest coaching seminars during the school year.
- Nest Coaches have at least five designated coaching periods per week to:
  - Work in classrooms supporting teachers and/or students
  - Meet with teachers and/or related service providers to brainstorm, design, implement, and track the efficacy of strategies or interventions
  - Promote the generalization of SDI concepts across across settings in the school day
  - Provide professional development for their school's Nest and non-Nest professionals, to help the school adopt and maintain Nest practices school-wide
  - Support the administration in implementing all elements of the ASD Nest model
- Nest Coaches take on a leadership role in the Team Meeting. He/she may facilitate the meetings, set conferencing schedules and meeting agendas, and/or maintain records.
- Nest Coaches participate in three or four mentoring visits, working directly with a ASD Nest consultant:
  - Creating a schedule for the day based on his/her school's needs and traveling with the consultant during that visit
  - Meeting 1:1 with the consultant, observing classrooms, and meeting with teacher teams and therapists, and participates in meetings with administration
  - Collaborating with Nest consultants to help school teams develop strategy plans for struggling students, teachers, and/or teams
  - Following up with teachers and administration after the visit, based on discussions and plans from consultation visit

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## **Additional Questions & Considerations:**

### **How are Nest Coaches selected?**

The Nest Coach is a posted position at each school. Coaches are selected by the principal. To be eligible for the position, coaches must be experienced Nest teachers with multiple years of experience working in the Nest program, who have completed all of the Nest training. Coaches must be willing to complete additional graduate coursework through Hunter College and also participate in the coaching seminars and related projects.

### **What additional graduate coursework is provided to Nest Coaches?**

The ASD Nest Program reimburses Nest Coaches who take two 3-credit graduate-level Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) courses in Hunter College's advanced certificate BCBA program: ABA I and ABA II. The ASD Nest program does not require that the Nest Coach take the entire 5-course BCBA sequence in the advanced certificate program, or that they obtain BCBA certification. If the Nest Coach would like to complete the course series and obtain BCBA certification, he/she may complete the remaining three courses, make arrangements to secure supervision hours, and sit for the BCBA exam. They will not be reimbursed these and related costs.

### **How do coaches register and receive reimbursement for the coursework at Hunter?**

1. Coaches should complete the online application for admission to Hunter College: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/aba/admissions> prior to the application deadline for the upcoming semester.
2. Coaches should email Lauren Hough when they apply and keep her updated on their application status. *Copies should be kept of ALL submitted paperwork, as well as a record of when paperwork was submitted.*
3. To receive reimbursement from the ASD Nest program for this coursework, coaches must send in copies of their proof of acceptance, proof of payment for any bills (e.g. application fees and course tuition costs and fees), as well as a completed W-9 form, a payment to individuals form, and a reimbursement request. These, along with any copies of paperwork from Hunter proving registration/enrollment, should be sent to the ASD Nest Support Project manager, Wendy Carranza:

Wendy Carranza, ASD Nest Support Project  
New York University, Steinhardt  
Metropolitan Center for Urban Education  
726 Broadway, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10003

### **A note on the ASD Nest Model:**

This paper outlines an element of the ASD Nest Model. Fidelity of implementation to the model is essential for program consistency. While a degree of flexibility is necessary given individual school needs, the program benefits from schools' commitment to a cohesive model.