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EMPOWERING INDEPENDENCE:

Supporting Students with Executive Function Challenges

A Practical Strategies Seminar for Paraprofessionals

SPEAKER: SARAH WARD, M.S., CCC-SLP

September 18, 2024 | 8 AM - 9:30 AM Pacific Time

VIRTUAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

PACIFIC	MOUNTAIN	CENTRAL	EASTERN
Start Time: 8 am	Start Time: 9 am	Start Time: 10 am	Start Time: 11 am

Below are 3 options for participation:

BUNDLE: Live zoom webinar AND On-Demand Replay (available September 25 - October 25, 2024)

ON-DEMAND ONLY: Access the recording at your own pace between September 25-October 25, 2024

LIVE ZOOM WEBINAR ONLY: Attend on September 18, 2024 only

LEARNER OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify the critical executive function skills necessary for student success in the classroom.
2. Create a structured approach for breaking down complex tasks into smaller, manageable steps to ensure consistent progress.
3. Establish efficient systems for organizing classroom materials, facilitating smooth transitions, sensing the passage of time and minimizing distractions
4. Differentiate between supportive assistance and enabling behavior to foster student independence.
5. Implement a graduated approach to instruction, moving from teacher-led to student-led activities.
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of instructional strategies in promoting student responsibility and autonomy.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This is an introductory to intermediate level course. It is designed with Paraprofessionals in mind. Teams that work closely together with the paraprofessional, such as General Education Teachers, Special Education Teachers and Administrators may also benefit from the content. At the bottom of page 1 in bold please add the following - Only a certificate of attendance is offered. **No CEUs or other accreditations are provided.**



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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In today's classrooms, paraprofessionals play a crucial role in supporting students with diverse needs. However, the challenge lies in striking the right balance—how do we provide essential assistance without inadvertently hindering a student's growth toward independence?

THE DILEMMA: HELPING VS. ENABLING

The Intentions: Well-intentioned paraprofessionals genuinely want to empower students. They aim to equip them with the executive function skills essential for classroom engagement and task completion

The Reality: Sometimes, despite the best intentions, paraprofessionals inadvertently slip into a pattern of over-helping. They prompt, guide, and even complete tasks for the child, unintentionally creating dependency.

THE CRITICAL QUESTIONS:

Where is the Line? How do we differentiate between helpful support and enabling behavior?

When to Step Back? When should we gradually transfer responsibility to the student, allowing them to become independent?

In this practical strategies seminar we will Unpack the Executive Function Skills:

- **What Are They?** Explore the critical executive function skills students need for success.
- **How Do They Apply?** Understand how these skills manifest in the classroom.

Then give you dozens of easy to implement tools to improve:

- **Self-Regulation:** Learn techniques for managing emotions and staying focused.
- **Task Completion:** Strategies for breaking down complex tasks and maintaining momentum.
- **Materials Organization:** Efficient ways to organize materials for smoother transitions.
- **Time Management:** Mastering the art of sensing time passage.
- **Task Breakdown:** Techniques for breaking down assignments into manageable steps, completing and closing out tasks.

To gradually increase student responsibility and independence, you will learn how to implement these strategies and kickstart a student's learning by beginning with focused instruction ("I teacher do it"), progressing to guided instruction ("We do it together"), collaborating with students as they gain confidence, and finally transitioning to independent learning ("You do it alone").

Don't miss this thought-provoking session! Whether you're an educator, paraprofessional, or advocate for student independence, you need to attend to foster independent executive function skills!



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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERED:

- 1. CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE** 1.5 clock hours for the day. Attendance will be confirmed via Zoom log in/logout.

COURSE OUTLINE

- 10 minutes Welcome and course overview, Importance of executive function skills in education, Defining the balance between helping and enabling
- 25 minutes Unpacking Executive Function Skills
- 45 minutes Implementing Practical Tools
- 10 minutes Wrap up and Q & A



SARAH WARD, M.S., CCC-SLP

Sarah Ward, M.S., CCC/SLP has over 25 years of experience in the treatment of executive dysfunction. Sarah is an internationally recognized expert on executive function and presents seminars on the programs and strategies she has developed with her Co-Director Kristen Jacobsen. Their 360 Thinking Executive Function Program received the Innovative Promising Practices Award from the National Organization CHADD. She has presented to over 1800 public and private schools and organizations worldwide. In recognition of their global influence in the field of twice-exceptional learning, Sarah and Kristen Jacobsen were the honored recipients of the Nancy Tarshis Legacy Fellowship Award. Further solidifying their status as eminent figures in their field, Sarah and Kristen were named one of the Top 10 Professional Development Providers for 2023 by Education Technology Insights Magazine.

Disclosure: Sarah Ward's company Cognitive Connections produces and sells products on her website, which are tools, that support students in developing an internal sense of time. Some of these materials will be referenced in the presentation. Many of these materials can also be purchased at local stores. The website also sells treatment programs and games to develop independent executive function skills. In addition, the website offers many free resources and references. Sarah Ward receives a speaker's fee for presentations. There are no non-financial relationship to disclose.



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REGISTRATION FORM

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ONLINE REGISTRATION | Credit card and purchase order payments at: aepconnections.com

REGISTRATION FORMS: Please send completed registration forms and purchase orders via mail, email (info@aepconnections.com), or fax.

Name: _____ School District: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____
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Confirmations and communications will be sent by email. Please print email clearly.

REGISTRATION COST

BUNDLE (Live Zoom Webinar + Replay) **\$69**
ON-DEMAND ONLY (Available 9/25/24 - 10/25/24) **\$59**
LIVE ZOOM WEBINAR ONLY (9/18/24) **\$59**
Each registration is for a SINGLE participant

- Bundle (Live Zoom Webinar, 9/18 8am-9:30am Pacific AND On-Demand Replay 9/25-10/25) \$69 \$ _____
- On-Demand Only (available 9/25 - 10/25/24 only) \$59 \$ _____
- LIVE - Zoom Webinar access only (9/18 at 8 am - 9:30 am Pacific) \$59 \$ _____

AEP Connections | P.O. Box 286, Roscoe, IL 61073

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CANCELLATION POLICY: More than 45 days before the first day of the conference: Full Refund, less a \$25 processing fee. Less than 45 days, but more than 14 days before the first day of the conference: Credit towards a future conference or a substitute may be sent in your place, with prior approval by AEP Connections. Less than 14 days before the first day of the conference: No Refunds. AEP Connections reserves the right to substitute speakers in the event of a speaker cancellation. AEP Connections reserves the right to change "live in person" conference to a "Live-stream" webinar in the event of weather, pandemic, Acts of God, national or local guidelines. Our refund policy applies to all registration payments including those by purchase order.