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Virtual Learning Experience - On Demand

Empowering Independence: Supporting Students with Executive Function Challenges **A Practical Strategies Seminar for Paraprofessionals** **SPEAKER: SARAH WARD, M.S., CCC-SLP**

Available 9/25/24 through 10/25/24 only

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

Only a certificate of attendance is offered. No CEUs or other accreditations are provided.



EMPOWERING INDEPENDENCE

Supporting Students with Executive Function Challenges
A Practical Strategies Seminar for Paraprofessionals Strategies

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

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:

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

COURSE OUTLINE

15 minutes: Welcome and course overview, Importance of executive function skills in education, Defining the balance between helping and enabling

35 minutes: Unpacking Executive Function Skills

60 minutes: Implementing Practical Tools

5 minutes: Wrap up



SARAH WARD, M.S., CCC-SLP

Sarah Ward has over 25 years of experience in diagnostic evaluations, treatment and case management of children, adolescents and adults with language learning disabilities, nonverbal learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, executive dysfunction, Asperger's disorders and social pragmatics. Her particular specialty is in the assessment and treatment of executive function deficits. Ms. Ward holds a faculty appointment at the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions where she provides instruction to graduate level students in the assessment and treatment of individuals with traumatic brain injury and other cognitive communication disorders. A popular speaker, Sarah regularly presents nationally and internationally on the topic of executive functions to a variety of professional and parent organizations, school and lay groups. She has presented to and consulted with over 450 public and private schools in Massachusetts and across the United States. Awards received include the MGH Expertise in Clinical Practice Award, the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Faculty in Excellence Award from the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions (2002, 2011).

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

LIMITED TIME ONLY

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

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Confirmations and communications will be sent by email. Please print email clearly.

REGISTRATION COST

**** ON-DEMAND (available 9/25/24-10/25/24) \$59**

**** Each registration is for a SINGLE participant ****

On - Demand Only (available 9/25/24 - 10/25/24 only) \$59 \$ _____
 Additional Registrant @ \$59 each: \$59 each \$ _____
Additional Name(s): _____
Total: \$ _____

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