



AWARENESS EDUCATION POTENTIAL

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ON DEMAND: Developing Positive Self-Esteem - How to help autistic individuals understand themselves and their autism in an empowering way

SPEAKER: PETER VERMEULEN, PHD

INDEPENDENT SELF STUDY COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Autistic individuals understand the world in an atypical way. Their 'absolute thinking' does not only affect their understanding of the world around them, but also their own inner world: the world of their emotions, thoughts, desires, and needs. The autistic thinking makes it hard to develop a self-understanding that empowers one to navigate a world that is not always autism friendly. On top of that, comparing themselves with their peers, for whom life seems to be easier, autistic children and youngsters often develop a negative self-esteem. In this course you will learn how the autistic cognitive style impacts the development of a realistic and positive self-understanding. We will also describe what makes it hard for autistic individuals to understand their own autism and how to cope with it.

We will explore how we can help autistic individuals to develop a good understanding of themselves and their autism. You will learn how to make psycho-education (interventions that aim at explaining the diagnosis to autistic children and adults) autism friendly and neuro-affirmative. We will share our experiences with 25 years of work with 'I am Special', a psycho-education programme we developed in the nineties. You will learn about strategies that improve the self-understanding and enhance a positive self-esteem.

LEARNER OBJECTIVES:

1. Define "Theory of Own Mind"
2. Identify at least 3 conditions necessary to develop a good understanding of oneself
3. Explain the importance of context in self-knowledge and provide at least 2 examples of how self-understanding requires contextual sensitivity
4. Describe how the autistic thinking affects the understanding of self and the understanding of your own autism diagnosis
5. Identify at least 3 principles of an autism friendly psycho-education
6. Develop materials and/or adapt existing materials to inform autistic individuals about their diagnosis in a positive and neuro-affirmative way

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This course is suitable for anyone working or living with children or adults on the autism spectrum: parents, teachers/educators, teaching assistants, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, social workers, counselors, administrators and psychologists. This conference is open to anyone who wishes to attend and there are no prerequisites. This is an intermediate level course.

If you require special assistance, please contact AEP Connections to inform them of your special needs by emailing: info@aepconnections.com or calling: 833.237.2668



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COURSE AGENDA

- 90 minutes** Part 1: Autistic thinking: the consequences for self-understanding and self-esteem
- Understanding yourself: what is Theory of Own Mind?
 - Theory of Own Mind and the autistic cognition – a predictive coding perspective
 - Self-concept and self-esteem in autism: what does research tell us?
- 90 minutes** Part 2: Understanding your own autism:
- The challenges of understanding your own autism
 - Informing children, youngsters and adults about their diagnosis (psycho-education)
 - Should we inform them about their diagnosis, when and how?
- 90 minutes** Part 3: Improving the self-understanding of autistic individuals:
- What have we learned from 25 years of psycho-education in autism?
 - How to make psycho-education more autism-friendly: strategies to talk about autism in a positive and neuro-affirmative way
- 90 minutes** Part 4: How to improve the self-understanding in an empowering way
- Helping autistic individuals to understand themselves in context:
 - Me and the other ones
 - Let's not make the autism too big: understanding my autism in context
 - From "I am Special" to "H.A.P.P.Y."

SPEAKER BIO



PETER VERMEULEN, PHD

Peter Vermeulen, PhD in Psychology and Clinical Educational Sciences, has more than 35 years of experience in the field of autism. Founder of "Autism in Context", where autism is understood in context. Peter is an internationally respected lecturer/trainer and he presents all over the world. Peter wrote more than 15 books and several articles on autism, some of them translated into more than 10 languages. For his +30 years of work in the field of autism, he received in 2019 a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Financial Disclosure: Peter Vermeulen, Ph.D. receives an honorarium for his presentation with AEP Connections, LLC. Dr. Vermeulen is a paid autism trainer and also receives royalties for the books that he has written. **Non-Financial:** Dr. Vermeulen has reported no conflicts of interest, financial, or non-financial regarding this presentation.



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SELF STUDY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERED

- 1. CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE** - 6 clock hours for attendance. Full attendance, a course evaluation and a passing score of 80% is required for satisfactory completion.
- 2. NBCC** - AEP Connections, LLC has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 7173. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. AEP Connections, LLC is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.
Available NBCC Clock Hours: 6
- 3. ASWB** - AEP Connections, LLC, #1332, is approved as an ACE provider to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. ACE provider approval period: 1/27/2025- 1/27/2028. Social workers completing this course receive 6 continuing education credits. Full attendance, a course evaluation and an additional post test is required for satisfactory completion.
- 4. AOTA** - AEP Connections, LLC is an AOTA Approved Provider of professional development. Course approval ID 11601. This distance learning - independent is offered at .6 CEUs. Intermediate, OT Service Delivery. AOTA does not endorse specific course content, products, or clinical procedures. A course evaluation and an 80% on the post test is required for satisfactory completion.
- 5. ASHA** - Provider approval and use of the Brand Block does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures. Full attendance, a passing score of 80% on the course exam and a completed evaluation are required for satisfactory completion of ASHA CEUs.
- 6. NASP** - AEP Connections is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists to offer continuing education for school psychologists. AEP Connections maintains responsibility for the program. NASP Approved Provider #1165. A code to access the course evaluation will be provided in segments throughout the webinar, to ensure full participation. Full attendance, a passing score of 80% on the post test, and a course evaluation are required for satisfactory completion.

Please note, NASW is NOT available for on-demand option. Contact AEP Connections with any accommodations.



**ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER**

AEP Connections, LLC

Intermediate Level
.6 ASHA CEUs





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REGISTRATION FORM

INDEPENDENT SELFT STUDY COURSE
AVAILABLE May 5 2025 - June 5, 2025 ONLY

ONLINE REGISTRATION | Available for credit card transactions at: **aeconnections.com**

CHECK OR PURCHASE ORDERS: Please send completed registration form via mail, email or fax.

Purchase orders must accompany registrations.

Name: _____ School District: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

REGISTRATION COST

SALE PRICE (first 50) \$179

REGULAR PRICING \$209

****Each registration is for a single participant****

Sale Price (first 50 to register) \$179 \$ _____

Regular Price \$209 \$ _____

Additional Registrations X _____

Names: _____ \$ _____

Group discounts are available. Please call or email for details.

Total Paid: \$ _____

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, LLC. 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.