



**AWARENESS EDUCATION POTENTIAL**

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## **Declarative Language + Co-Regulation: Positive Teaching Tools to Support Engagement and Learning with Neurodivergent Learners**

### **On Demand Course**

**Presenter: Linda K. Murphy MS, CCC-SLP**

#### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

In this 1.5 hour on demand course, participants will be introduced to the idea of neurodiversity and related resources, The Double Empathy Problem, information processing as a multi-faceted process, and how neurodivergent learners often process information differently from neurotypical learners. To support these learners in a neurodiversity affirming way, we must work to understand these differences in processing, while also finding effective and respectful ways to teach and guide them. When we get it right, we all learn about each other, and grow from the experience.

Declarative Language + Co-Regulation, along with mindful pacing, will be introduced as a neurodiversity affirming teaching method that supports mutual understanding, learning, and skill building, across social learning styles. An overview of each concept, along with video examples, will be provided so that participants will walk away with concrete ideas on how to apply this framework in their own educational settings.

#### **LEARNER OBJECTIVES**

1. Describe the Double Empathy Problem and explain why it is important for educators to be aware of it.
2. Identify two ways processing might be different for neurodivergent learners and one strategy they can use right away to support their student's processing.
3. Identify the difference between declarative and imperative statements.
4. Explain the rationale behind declarative language use.
5. Explain why teaching at a student's edge of competence = or finding a "just right challenge" - is a strategy that supports self-regulation and engagement.
6. Explain co-regulation in terms of competent, authentic, contingent roles and identify examples of how to use this framework to engage a student in two different natural environment activities.
7. Describe the language and pacing used within co-regulatory opportunities.

**If you require special assistance, please contact AEP Connections to inform them of your special needs by emailing: [info@aeconnections.com](mailto:info@aeconnections.com) or calling: 833.237.2668**



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### **MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE**

#### ***More on Declarative Language***

Each time we speak, we have the opportunity to choose our words. Speaking in a thoughtful way means that we are choosing words that will invite and empower individuals with social learning differences to feel connected, feel competent, and feel understood while learning and being guided outside their comfort zone. When we pause to think about what we say and how we say it, our learners in turn stop to think about what they say or do in response. In this course, participants will be shown a speaking style called declarative language that can be naturally used within social interactions to encourage connection and learning across areas of perspective taking, flexible thinking, problem solving and experience sharing.

#### ***More on Co-Regulation***

In this course, participants will learn about a teaching process called Guided Participation, which uses co-regulation to create authentic partnerships between the teacher and student, therapist and client, or caregiver and child (of any age). When practicing co-regulation, the guide thoughtfully crafts competent, contingent roles for their student in an ongoing way, and responsibility is transferred over time, at a pace that is manageable for each learner. This leads to positive social connection, true reciprocity, and increased opportunities for engagement, growth, and continued learning.

### **TIMED AGENDA**

*4 minutes - Welcome & Introduction*

*14 minutes - Neurodiversity, The Double Empathy Problem, and Processing*

*28 minutes - Declarative Language Overview*

*36 minutes - Co-Regulation Overview*

*7 minutes - Resources to Learn More*

### **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

Special Education teachers, Speech-Language Therapists, OTs, counselors, general education teachers, administrators, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, PTs, principals, nurses, parents, and anyone who works with someone on the autism spectrum, ADHD, executive functioning difficulties, or other learning disabilities. This is an introductory level course.



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### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERED

- 1. CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE** - This course is offered for 1.5 clock hours. Full attendance and a passing score of 80% on the test is required.
- 2. ASHA-** This course is offered for .15 ASHA CEUs. Full attendance a passing score of 80% on the course exam and a completed evaluation are required for satisfactory completion of ASHA CEUs. Provider approval and use of the Brand Block does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products, or clinical procedures.
- 3. AOTA** - AEP Connections, LLC is an AOTA Approved Provider of professional development. Course approval ID 09192. This distance learning – independent is offered for up to .15 CEUs (1.5 contact hours). Introductory, 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.
- 4. 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. Full attendance is required and a passing score of 80% is required on the post test. This course is offered for 1.5 credits/hours.
- 5. 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 is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.  
*Available NBCC Clock hours: 1.5*
- 6. 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 1.5 continuing education credits. Full attendance, a course evaluation and an additional post test is required for satisfactory completion.



AEP Connections, LLC

Introductory Level  
.15 ASHA CEUs





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### **LINDA MURPHY, MS CCC/SLP**

#### **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY**

Linda Murphy MS, CCC-SLP is a speech language pathologist and RDI® Consultant. She co-founded Peer Projects - Therapy From the Heart, a clinic in Beverly, MA dedicated to helping individuals of all ages and their families by using a positive, thoughtful communication style that emphasizes understanding, patience, respect, and kindness. Linda has been working with individuals with social learning differences for over 25 years. She leads trainings on the topic of social learning, has authored Declarative Language Handbook, Co-Regulation Handbook, numerous articles, and co-authored the book Social Thinking and Me with Michelle Garcia Winner. Linda lives north of Boston with her husband and their two busy lovable boys.

#### *Disclosures:*

*Financial: Linda Murphy will receive a speaker's honorarium from AEP Connections for the presentation. Linda also receives royalties from KDP Publishing (Amazon) as the author of the books, Declarative Language Handbook and Co-Regulation Handbook, which she will refer to in this course. There are no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.*