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On Demand: Supporting PDA Individuals with Declarative Language

SPEAKER: LINDA MURPHY, MS. CCC/SLP

INDEPENDENT SELF STUDY COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Declarative language is an extremely effective tool that supports social information processing across social learning styles, when it is used with intentionality and care. PDA, or Pathological Demand Avoidance, is a unique autistic profile where increased thoughtfulness around communication is especially important to ensure the PDA individual feels safe. Interestingly, even though declarative language is generally known to be helpful to PDAers, some PDA adults share their skepticism and even dislike for this speaking style.

In this course, participants will not only learn what declarative language is, but we will dive deeper to explore and truly understand the foundation and heart of this therapeutic approach, and subsequently the nuances and shifts that are most important for PDA individuals. Participants will learn how to create declarative dialogue that works to establish safety, helps reduce anxiety, shares important information, and prioritizes autonomy - all essential elements for communication with PDA individuals. In addition, common pitfalls will be shared so that participants can spot declarative statements that may not be helpful.

Lecture, powerpoint, many examples and case studies will also be shared, with time for Q&A.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

K-12+ 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, PDA, executive functioning difficulties, or other learning disabilities. There are no prerequisites and anyone is welcome to attend, 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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LEARNER OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify two differences in the ways autistic individuals process information
2. Explain why declarative statements can reduce anxiety
3. Construct declarative statements that give information and prioritize autonomy
4. Describe important aspects of nonverbal communication when speaking in a declarative way
5. Identify inferential declarative statements in contrast to those that are more direct
6. Explain the importance of consent when sharing new information

COURSE SCHEDULE

- 15 minutes Overview, Neurodiversity, Double Empathy, Social Communication
- 25 minutes Getting into PDA: Processing, Uncertainty, and Autonomy; Safety & Autonomy
- 10 minutes Attunement and Co-Regulation
- 25 minutes Q & A; Elements of Declarative Language important for PDAers, Examples
- 45 minutes FAQs and other important topics to PDAers, Case Studies
- 10 minutes Conclusions



LINDA MURPHY, MS CCC/SLP

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Linda is a speech language pathologist and RDI® Consultant. She founded Peer Projects, a clinic in Beverly, MA dedicated to helping kids and 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 30 years. She leads trainings on the topic of supporting communication and learning across social learning styles, and authored Declarative Language Handbook and Co-Regulation Handbook. She is a Certified Early Intervention Specialist, trained in Natural Language Acquisition (NLA)/Gestalt Language Processing, and holds Level 1 and Level 2 Certificates in Training from PDA North America. Linda lives north of Boston with her husband and their two busy lovable boys, who are now entering their teenage years.

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.



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ON-DEMAND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERED:

- 1. CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE** 2.0 clock hours. Full attendance, a course evaluation and a 80% is required on the post-test 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 program. Full attendance, a course evaluation and a passing score of 80% on the post test is required for satisfactory completion.
Available NBCC Clock Hours: 2
- 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 2 continuing education credits. Full attendance, a course evaluation and a passing score of 80% on the post test is required for satisfactory completion.
- 4. AOTA** - AEP Connections, LLC is an AOTA Approved Provider of professional development. Course approval ID 11661. This distance learning – interactive is offered for up to .2 CEUs (2.0 contact hours). Intermediate, OT Service Delivery. AOTA does not endorse specific course content, products, or clinical procedures. Full attendance, a course evaluation and a passing score of 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 course evaluation and a passing score of 80% on the post test is required for satisfactory completion.
- 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. The course is offered for 2 credits/hours. Full attendance, a course evaluation and a passing score of 80% on the post test is required for satisfactory completion.



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

☐ On - Demand Registration \$99 \$ _____

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