

What's Going On in the Adolescent Brain?

Executive Functioning and Decision Making Skills in Children and Teens

DoubleTree Hotel
South Burlington, Vermont
Friday, November 19, 2010

About the Presenters

Peg Dawson EdD, NCSP and Richard Guare PhD are well known and respected clinicians at The Center for Learning and Attention Disorders, a program of Seacoast Mental Health Center, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. They are also co-authors of numerous publications including their recently published Executive Skills in Children and Adolescents: A Practical Guide to Assessment and Intervention and Smart but Scattered. Peg and Richard have years of experience in developing innovative and influential intervention with typically developing children and adolescents, as well as those who have been diagnosed with ADHD, autism and other learning challenges.

Session Description

Children and adolescents with poor executive skills can be a little bit like driving in a car, gas pedal to the floor, with the brakes on back order. They have many decisions to make in the course of their day and may appear disorganized or forgetful, easily distracted, careless or rushed. Perhaps, they don't know where to begin on long-term assignments or they put them off until the last minute, in part because they have trouble judging the magnitude of the task and how long it will take to complete. And this is only in relation to schoolwork! In today's culture many other situations present themselves: to drink, do drugs, have sex and more. How do we teach children the skills and self-discipline necessary to live in today's world?

Learning Objectives

As a result of this workshop, participants will:

1. Understand executive skills within the context of brain development.
2. Be able to identify how executive skills impact school performance, daily living, and relationships.
3. Have access to a repertoire of strategies to improve executive skills in children. These will include strategies to modify the environment to reduce the impact of weak executive skills and procedures such as coaching that can be used to teach children how to improve specific executive skill deficits in the context of home, social or school performance expectations.

Conference Agenda

8:00 - 8:30 Registration

Coffee, tea, muffins, and fruit

8:30 - 10:00

Overview of Executive Skills

- Definitions
- Underlying Theory
- Executive Skills in the Context of Brain Function and Child Development

10:00 - 10:15 Break

10:15 - 11:15

Assessment of Executive Skills

- Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews
- Behavior Rating Scales
- Formal/Informal Assessment

11:15 - 11:30 Puppets in Education Presentation

11:30 - 12:15 Lunch

Included with Registration

12:15 - 2:15

Three Intervention Strategies

- Environmental Modifications to Reduce the Impact of Weak Executive Skills
- Teaching Strategies/Routines to Help Youngsters Develop/Improve Executive Functioning
- Using Incentives to Help Youngsters Practice or Use Skills That Are Difficult

2:15 - 2:30 Break

2:30 - 3:30

Coaching as an Effective Strategy for Building Executive Skills

- Overview of Coaching
- Description of 2-Stage Process
- Coaching with Younger Children and Teens
- Clinical Case Examples
- Description of Research Studies Supporting the Efficacy of Coaching

Registration

Please Detach and Return

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

___ \$150 individual by 10/15/10

___ \$125 each for groups of 3 or more attendees from the same organization if received by 10/15/10

___ \$175 all registrations after 10/15/10

Note: \$50 administrative fee for any cancellations. No refunds will be given after 10/29/10.

Please make checks payable to **Puppets in Education** and return with registration form to:

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