



THE SOCIAL LEARNING CENTER, LLC  
545 HIGHLAND AVE  
Cheshire, CT 06410  
203-250-0305  
<http://www.sociallearningcenter.org>

August 10th, 2022

Conference descriptions and objectives:

### 90 Min: Executive Functioning: Its Impact on Neurodiverse Learners

Executive functioning is a “buzz term” in the field of School Psychology and education but what does it mean and how does it impact our students on a day-to-day basis? For students with various neurodiverse learning needs (e.g. Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), ADD/ADHD, Social Communication Disorders, Specific Learning Disorders, etc.) they may struggle when it comes to written expression, reading comprehension, and developing social connections. Many students are told to “stop it” and “you should know....” or “you just did this yesterday!”

This presentation will explore how one’s executive functioning impacts the academic, social, and emotional aspects of students today. An emphasis will be placed on uncovering one’s strengths to help improve those areas of deficit. This session will touch upon ways to collaborate and consult with teachers, parents, and administration as to how one’s EF may impact various aspects of their life (not just organizing their backpack!)

#### Objectives:

- Participants will gain a working knowledge of neurodiverse learners and the impact executive functioning has on learning.
- Participants will explore ways to use assessment tools to drive intervention and create measurable goals and objectives.
- Participants will explore ways to communicate and collaborate with teachers, families and outside professionals on ways to support one’s EF in a culturally sensitive manner.

### 90-Min: Addressing Mental Health Needs in Neurodiverse Learners:

For individuals with various neurodiverse learning needs (e.g., Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), ADD/ADHD, Social Communication Disorders, Specific Learning Disorders, etc) the idea of being “social” can either be extremely motivating or can be draining, overwhelming, fragmented, and/or depressing. There is no specific training for School Psychologists around addressing the mental health needs of neurodiverse students and how some of those core deficits impact the school-based counseling sessions/outcomes. This seminar is intended to begin that conversation around mental health needs of students and ways to address them within the school environment. This seminar will touch upon some evidence-based interventions, essential treatment tools, and cognitive behavioral/social techniques clinicians can use tomorrow!

#### Objectives:

- Participants will gain a working knowledge of neurodiverse learners and the impact mental health has on one’s learning progress.
- Participants will explore several counseling techniques to be used in school-based counseling.

- Participants will explore ways to communicate and collaborate with teachers, families, and outside professionals on ways to support one's mental health needs in a culturally sensitive manner.

Round Table: Dr. Abildgaard welcomes questions, comments, and cases that participants are currently working with all intending to create a space for conversation around our neurodiverse learners and ways we can better support them within the school and community settings.

I hope these topics meet the needs of the association. Feedback is welcome and I am looking forward to joining you all in the Fall.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Abildgaard, Ed.D, NCSP, LPC  
Director, the Social Learning Center  
203-250-0305