



Praxis and Executive Functioning: Connecting Motor and Cognition

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Course Description:

Many children today demonstrate challenges in sequencing, organization, planning and regulation. These challenges are often attributed to executive function deficits. However, in many cases, these children may have praxis difficulties which contribute to or constitute the source of these challenges. This course will examine the relationship between motor and praxis skills and executive function skills. How these functions overlap and work together to allow us to effectively interact with our world will be explored. The role of integral concepts common to these two functions such as embodied cognition, representational thought, sequencing, and spatial-temporal adaptation will be discussed. Information on how to identify these challenges and key intervention strategies will be presented. Learning will be facilitated by lectures, case studies and participant interaction. Ample time will be provided for questions and answers.

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course the participant will be able to:

1. State the relationship between praxis and executive functions.
2. Identify 3 ways to evaluate praxis and executive functions.
3. Identify 3 intervention strategies to address praxis and executive function deficits.

Contact hours: 6

Audience: OT, OT, OTA, OTA, Speech and Language, Special Educators



Course Agenda:

Day 1:

7:00 – 8:30 Introduction to praxis and executive function

8:30 – 10:00 Common foundations and relationships of practice and EF functions

Day 2:

7:00 – 8:30 Assessment of praxis and EF functions

8:30 – 10:00 Intervention strategies for promoting praxis and EF functions