



The Speech and Language Corner

October News Brief

This Month's Topic: Executive Function Disorders

Many students with language disabilities have weaknesses in what is called Executive function. Executive function is defined a set of mental processes that help to connect past experiences with present action. Students who have difficulty in this area will have difficulty planning, organizing, remembering details of a story or event and regulating behavior.

This disorder is usually associated with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder. It can cause multiple problems in both school and at home and often creates frustration and behavior problems in students.

Signs of this disorder can often consist of not knowing how to begin writing a report, presenting ideas in a disorganized illogical sequence, not being able to remember details of a story after just reading it, having a hard time waiting his/her turn, difficulty working cooperatively with others, and often acting out when frustrated.

There aren't any specific tests to confirm Executive Function Disorder but speech therapists can use other methods of testing to pin point where the language difficulties occur and what executive function areas are affected so strategies for teaching can be put into place. Attached is a list of strategies to help teachers and other educators manage these deficits in their students.

Did You Know? A person's executive function abilities are shaped by both physical changes in the brain and by life experiences.



Strategies for Executive Function disorders:

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