

Successful Learning Conference: Masterclass Executive Functioning Supports for Students - and the Rest of Us

Tuesday 25 June 2024, 9.00am-3.00pm | **Online by ZOOM**



Executive Functioning (EF) is a set of skills that help us work towards completing a goal. Students with a range of needs and different diagnoses often have EF challenges. In inclusive classrooms, EF supports can help every student learn and feel successful.

To be successful in any classroom, students need to use a set of skills that are often not taught: setting goals, making and modifying plans, managing time, and coping with distractions and challenges. These skills are separate from the academic content that educators teach, but they impact students' ability to access and remember and demonstrate their knowledge of the content. Teachers often expect students to enter their classes with these skills intact, not knowing that they must often be taught and scaffolded.

These skills, executive functioning skills, help students complete their schoolwork so they can demonstrate to teachers what they have learned. They help students - and the rest of us - get done what they need to get done, get it done well, on time, and with minimal stress or distraction.

In this Masterclass we will define and explore executive functioning, the set of cognitive skills that act together to help someone achieve a goal.

We will examine what is required in order to plan, start, sustain, cope, and monitor while engaging in tasks; the challenges students may face in the process; and how to support them.

We will review multiple examples of executive functioning classroom strategies in six categories: Priming, Timing, Lists, Scales, Systems, and Reflection. We'll also discuss the executive functioning skill profiles of teachers, and the implications for understanding our own strengths and needs.

For those students in your classroom whose backpack is exploding, who have a hard time finding their pencil, getting started on work, staying focused, and finishing up - executive functioning supports can be the missing link to helping every student achieve school success.

At the conclusion of this masterclass participants will be able to:

- Define executive functioning and explain how it impacts students' success in school
- Describe the 11 executive functioning skills and how they help students get things done - well, on time, and completely
- Complete student executive functioning skill profiles, identifying relative strengths and needs, and compare and contrast with skill adult profiles
- Explore and create strategies that can help students struggling with executive functioning challenges
- Develop class-wide strategies to benefit all students who may be stuck or disorganised

Aaron Lanou, Educational Consultant, Aaron Lanou Consulting, LLC, US



Aaron Lanou is an educational consultant supporting schools and organisations to reach all kids with inclusive, strengths-based practices. He coaches teachers and others to teach and support both autistic students and all kids with a variety of academic, executive functioning, and social

support needs. A member of Carol Gray's Team Social Stories, Aaron also provides Social Stories workshops and collaborates with Carol and the team to continually update and refine the Social Stories philosophy and approach.

Through the lens of Universal Design for learning, Aaron works with educators to consider the kid in context, examining the environment, demands, and expectations as the starting point for helping students be successful in school. He specialises in helping teachers use clear and purposeful visual supports, focused graphic organizers, clarity and structure in instruction based on principles of learning and memory, and a range of executive functioning supports and other scaffolds. Committed to centering disabled perspectives, Aaron has learned from and alongside his students with disabilities and has collaborated frequently with autistic colleagues and presenters.

A former special education teacher, Aaron was previously Director of Professional Development and Executive Director of the Nest Support Project at New York University, leading the nation's largest inclusion program for autistic students, the NYC Department of Education's Nest Program. In his time at Nest, Aaron coordinated and provided professional development and consultation in Nest schools; oversaw the program's expansion to more than 50 K-12 schools across New York City; developed the middle and high school model with a team of secondary educators; and led a three-year grant to adapt the Nest model in the city of Aarhus, Denmark. He went on to help develop the Path Program, an inclusion program for students with social-emotional support needs based on the Nest model, created by NYU and the NYC Department of Education.

Aaron has been adjunct faculty at Hunter College and NYU, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses on instructional methods for students with learning disabilities and teaching students with complex support needs.

Registration & Fees

\$330pp GST Incl. (1 day masterclass)
Includes full-day online masterclass attendance & electronic resources bundle.

Please register online from the following link:
[Masterclass Registration](#).

To view all Successful Learning Conference registration options please visit the Successful Learning Conference website at [SLC 2024](#).

This masterclass is available for participation by Zoom only.

For enquiries please contact:

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