Elementary Strategies for Neurodivergent Learners

Course Syllabus

Course Description

The purpose of this professional development course is to provide educators with essential knowledge and practical strategies to support neurodivergent learners in elementary classrooms. Covering eight comprehensive modules, participants will gain a deep understanding of neurodiversity, ability to identify neurodivergent traits, learn to create supportive learning environments, and develop skills in differentiated instruction, social and emotional development and personalized learning. The course also emphasizes effective communication strategies and the need for advocacy and systematic change. By the end of the course, educators will be equipped to foster an inclusive and adaptive educational experience, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to thrive.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Define neurodiversity and recognize the various neurodivergent conditions commonly encountered in elementary classrooms, such as ADHD, autism, dyslexia, and more.*
2. Recognize and support students who have or may have ADHD/ADD.
3. Recognize and support students who have or may have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
4. Recognize and support students who have or may have learning disabilities.
5. Recognize and support students who have or may have Tourette.
6. Recognize and support students who have or may have sensory processing issues.
7. Understand strategies to communicate with neurodivergent learners.
8. Inspire educators to advocate for systemic changes to better support neurodiverse students.

Modules

- Module 1: Understanding Neurodiversity, Quiz 1
- Module 2: ADHD/ADD, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Quiz 3
- Module 4: Learning Disabilities, Quiz 4
- Module 5: Tourette Syndrome, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Sensory Disorders, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Communication is Key, Quiz 7
- Module 8: Understand Advocacy and Systemic Change, Quiz 8

Grading:

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course.