



**ASPEN® ANNUAL
 FALL CONFERENCE**
*Effective School Programming
 for Students with
 Autism Spectrum Disorders*

Keynote Presenter:

MICHELLE GARCIA WINNER, MA, CCC

*Thinking About YOU Thinking About ME:
 Exploring the Perspective-Taking Spectrum*

Afternoon Session Presenters:

Michelle Garcia Winner, MA, CCC
Organizing Strategies for Doing Homework

Ellen Fenster-Kuehl, Ph.D.
*Making Sense of Test Scores:
 What Do All Those Numbers Mean?*

Alisa Jacobson, Esq.
*A Successful IEP: What Makes It
 and What Breaks It*

Alexandra Freer
*Quirky Kids: How Sensory and
 Auditory Sensitivities Affect Behavior
 and What You Can Do To Help*

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2010
 8:00AM-4:30PM**

HILTON WOODBRIDGE
 120 Wood Avenue South, Iselin, NJ 08830

**PLEASE CHOOSE ONE PRESENTATION FOR EACH
 OF THE TWO AFTERNOON SESSIONS:**

- AFTERNOON SESSION I**
- _____ A) *Organizing Strategies for Doing Homework*
 - _____ B) *Making Sense of Test Scores: What Do All Those Numbers Mean?*
 - _____ C) *A Successful IEP: What Makes It and What Breaks It*
 - _____ D) *Quirky Kids: How Sensory and Auditory Sensitivities Affect Behavior and What You Can Do To Help*
- AFTERNOON SESSION II**
- _____ E) *Organizing Strategies for Doing Homework*
 - _____ F) *Making Sense of Test Scores: What Do All Those Numbers Mean?*
 - _____ G) *A Successful IEP: What Makes It and What Breaks It*
 - _____ H) *Quirky Kids: How Sensory and Auditory Sensitivities Affect Behavior and What You Can Do To Help*

REGISTRATION FEE

(INCLUDES MATERIALS, BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND COFFEE BREAKS)
 We regret that we cannot accommodate special dietary requests.

ALL FEES ARE PER PERSON.

- _____ **MEMBER (PARENT or FAMILY MEMBER)**
 \$105.00 (\$130.00 AFTER 10/8/10)
- _____ **MEMBER (PROFESSIONAL)**
 \$175.00 (\$200.00 AFTER 10/8/10)
- _____ **NON-MEMBER (PARENT or FAMILY MEMBER)**
 \$135.00 (\$160.00 AFTER 10/8/10)
- _____ **NON-MEMBER (PROFESSIONAL)**
 \$200.00 (\$225.00 AFTER 10/8/10)
- _____ **MEMBER INDIVIDUAL WITH ASD**
 \$80.00 (\$95.00 AFTER 10/8/10)

Effective School Programming for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders

ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

**** Thinking About YOU Thinking About ME: Exploring the Perspective-Taking Spectrum***

presented by Michelle Garcia Winner, MA, CCC

Persons with social-cognitive deficits, which includes those with diagnoses of Asperger Syndrome, High-Functioning Autism, PDD-NOS, NLD and ADHD, often have difficulty efficiently considering and responding to the perspectives of those around them. Perspective-taking is referred to as "Theory of Mind."

This keynote presentation will explore how central the skill of "perspective-taking" is to everyone's social contact and interpretation, whether it involves nonverbal or verbal communication. This presentation examines what it means to "take the perspective" of another person and how a deficit in this area hinders students in the most important environments in which they participate: school, home, community, and work. Perspective-taking as a social executive functioning skill will be discussed, and a model of 3 different levels of perspective-taking deficits, along with overall prognoses for each, will be presented. The presenter will review functional educational strategies that facilitate growth in the thinking of students who function at the higher end of the autism spectrum or who are experiencing related deficits. A four-step model for developing social communication skills will be introduced.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

*Conference attendees will choose **two** of the following four afternoon presentations.*

**** Organizing Strategies for Doing Homework***

presented by Michelle Garcia Winner, MA, CCC

The vast majority of students with social-cognitive deficits have immense difficulty developing organizational skills to manage the increasing complex expectations of life in upper elementary, middle, high school and into their adult years.

Organizational skills are a set of executive functioning skills that develop through experience and minimal prompting for neurotypical students. These same skills can be tremendously overwhelming tasks for even our most intellectually advanced students with social-cognitive deficits. The impact of poor organizational skills has far reaching implications, affecting one's outcome in school as well as at home and work. Weak organizational skills are poorly understood and often written off as pure laziness on the part of a "smart" student. Relatively little support is given to teach students to develop these critical skills that carry over into their future jobs and home-life as adults. Given that organizational skills are at the heart of academic and vocational success, this workshop will address ways in which the speech language pathologist, special education teacher, regular education teacher and parent can work together to develop instructional strategies to address these issues.

*** *Making Sense of Test Scores: What Do All Those Numbers Mean?***

presented by Ellen Fenster-Kuehl, Ph.D.

Children with learning disorders, ADHD, and spectrum disorders receive batteries of assessments throughout their childhood. Tests are used to identify diagnoses, determine educational and other needs, recognize strengths on which to build remedial strategies, and then to design and implement those strategies and monitor progress. The assessments have a language of their own through which professionals communicate that can leave parents and caregivers confused and mystified. Parents are considered members of the IEP Team but are often at a disadvantage in deciphering the data. This presentation is intended to identify the various components of assessments conducted by Child Study Teams and private evaluators, to define terms and concepts used, and to understand the numbers and statistics. The goal is for parents to have more knowledge by which to evaluate the effectiveness of a proposed IEP and of a student's progress.

*** *A Successful IEP: What Makes It and What Breaks It***

presented by Alisa Jacobson, Esq.

How do we, as parents, ensure that our child is getting the program he or she needs? Do we need a private evaluation? How do we effectively communicate and work with our school district to foster our child's best interests? What should be written into our child's IEP? What types of goals and objectives does our child need? How do we measure progress? What if our child is not making progress? Alisa Jacobson, Esq. will answer these questions and more in this information-filled seminar.

*** *Quirky Kids: How Sensory and Auditory Sensitivities Affect Behavior and What You Can Do To Help***

presented by Alexandra Freer

Many individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders react to the world differently than do their typical peers, in part, because their sensory systems perceive information in a unique way. Sound sensitivities, touch and texture sensitivities, and auditory processing differences can impact everything from attention and focus to social abilities to inappropriate behavior. This session will introduce parents to two of the major systems involved in sensory processing and examine how misperceptions through these systems impact the way an individual with Asperger's understands and interacts with the world. In addition, it will examine how neurologically-based therapies can change processing and improve related behaviors.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Parents, caregivers and adult family members of individuals with autism spectrum disorders; educational professionals including teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, CST members, occupational therapists, speech therapists; medical and health professionals; attorneys and advocates; individuals (age 15 and older) with autism spectrum disorders.

**Educators attending this full day conference will earn
6 Professional Development Hours.**

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Michelle Garcia Winner, MA, CCC is a speech language pathologist who specializes in the treatment of students with social-cognitive deficits, which include diagnoses such as Autism, Asperger Syndrome and Non-Verbal Learning Disorder. She has a private practice in San Jose, California where she works with clients, consults with families and schools and travels internationally giving workshops as well as being invited to train psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, and state policy makers. She presents 7 different all day workshops and helps to develop programs for schools and classrooms.

Michelle has written or co-authored 7 books which are published through Think Social Publishing, Inc. Her goal is to help administrators, educators and parents appreciate how social thinking and social skills are an integral part of students' academic, as well as social, experiences in addition to being critical for success in adulthood. She was honored with a "Congressional Special Recognition Award" in 2008. Michelle believes we can all do far more to help our students learn these abstract social lessons.

Ellen Fenster-Kuehl, Ph.D. is a psychologist in private practice in Montclair, New Jersey who has evaluated children, adolescents and adults for more than 20 years. She has also published on the topics of Asperger's Disorder, ADHD, learning disorders, and assessments, and has presented to many professional and parent groups.

Alisa M.L. Jacobson, Esq. is an advocate, advisor, and attorney, who has dedicated herself to serving the needs of children with disabilities since 1997. Her personal background, professional experience, and expertise regarding educational programming and placement for children with special needs distinguish her as a unique individual who has a heartfelt passion for her career.

Alisa possesses a broad range of litigation experience that has developed over her 17 year legal career. However, she is most proud of her legal work in the education and special education field. Alisa was pivotal in establishing as case law the concept that, for children with social deficits and executive dysfunction, their remedial program must be infused and integrated throughout the school day, every day, in order to make meaningful progress

Alisa's greatest strengths include her understanding of a client's needs and her ability to effectively and rationally present those needs to school districts, while drawing upon her experience as a school board attorney to reflect an

understanding of the challenges that school districts face in providing educational programs to its students. Her personal experience from having a sibling with special needs gives her invaluable insight and empathy for the challenges that her clients and their families encounter, thereby enabling her to truly advocate from the heart.

From December 2004 to the present, Alisa is the sole owner of the Law Office of Alisa M.L. Jacobson, L.L.C., where she dedicates herself as an attorney-advocate and advisor whose continuing goal is to effectuate an appropriate educational program and placement for children. She also represents children (both disabled and non-disabled) with regard to any disciplinary and criminal matters arising out of school-related conduct.

Alexandra L. Freer, founder of Key to Me Therapy in Bradley Beach, New Jersey, is a Certified Professional Listening Therapist who has helped hundreds of individuals with Asperger's and spectrum-related challenges improve their sensory and auditory processing. Alex spent more than 19 years working as an educational consultant to major school districts around the country prior to opening Key to Me Therapy in 2006. She has published several educational texts and was recently selected to the Court of Honor as one of the top 100 most distinguished graduates from Georgian Court University. Alex regularly conducts information sessions for support groups throughout the state to help parents understand the role that sensory and auditory processing plays in behavior, attention, social abilities and academics. She has a 13-year-old son with Asperger's Syndrome.

education • support • advocacy



aspenn[®] asperger syndrome education network

ABOUT ASPEN[®]

ASPEN provides information, support and advocacy to individuals and families whose lives are affected by Asperger Syndrome, PDD-NOS, High-Functioning Autism and Nonverbal Learning Disabilities. Its numerous chapters meet monthly, alternating support meetings with scheduled speakers. Members receive the newsletter ASPECTS; have access to a lending library of books, video tapes, DVD's, articles, and audio cassettes; receive a copy of the ASPEN Resource Directory, and are entitled to free attendance at all monthly chapter meetings in addition to substantial discounts on conferences. As a NJ Department of Education Professional Development Provider (#1619), ASPEN sponsors workshops and conferences featuring some of the most prominent names in the research community. ASPEN is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

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