

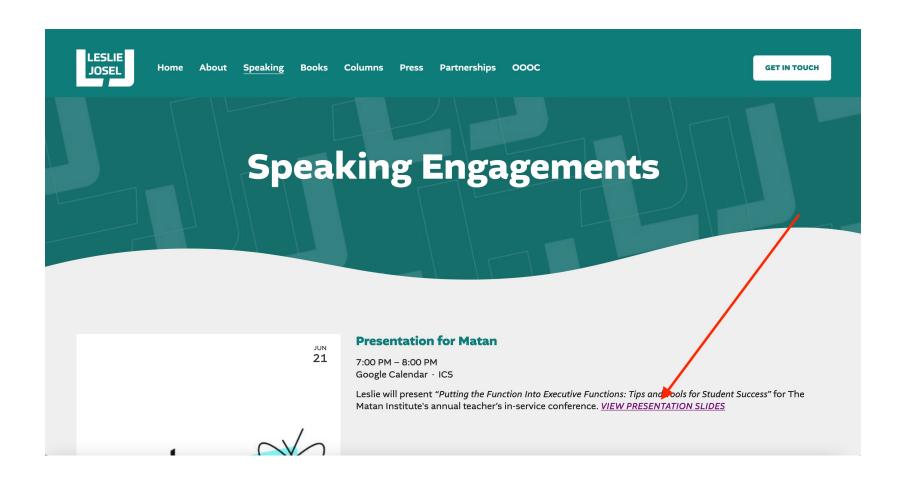
# DEMYSTIFYING EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

#### **MATAN Institute**

#### Order Out Of Chaos' MISSION

Our purpose is to provide hands-on education, guidance and coaching to parents and their students through our customized products and programs, so all children – both mainstream and with learning issues – can develop the necessary skills they need to experience success in learning and in life.

#### Where Are The Slides?



#### ADHD/ Executive Functions

# What's the Difference Between ADHD & Executive Functions?

#### **Executive Controls**

**Executive Control** is the brain's ability to filter, suppress and "screen out" all incoming information (including our own thoughts and reactions) that might "get in the way" of our ability to self-regulate and complete tasks.

In order to function daily, the brain must be able to ignore irrelevant thoughts, physical impulses, and external stimuli that barrage us and threaten our ability to maintain focus and control our thoughts, feelings and actions.

## Purposeful Actions

#### Brain vs Behavior

**Executive Age** is the person's age based on how his or her brain is working. EF individuals are an average of 30% behind. This delay lasts into adulthood. Human brains reach their highest point of maturity in the early 30s, and for EF people, that is where the maturity stops, even if there is delay.

#### What is the Executive Age

True Age	Executive	True Age	Executive Age	True Age	Executive
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4	2.67	14	9.33	24	16
5	3.333	15	Ю	25	16.67
6	4	16	10.67	26	17.33
7	4.67	17	11.33	27	18
8	5.33	18	12	28	18.67
9	6	19	12.67	29	19.33
Ю	6.67	20	13.33	30	20
II	7.33	21	14	31	20.67
12	8	22	14.67	32	21.33

When your children frustrate you with actions that are not age appropriate, refer to this chart to remind you to give them grace because their brains are developing behind schedule.

Graceunderpressure.com ORDEROOCHAOS.COM Sarah Forbes, 2017

#### Strengthen The Brain



**BRAIN IS A MUSCLE!** 

IT NEEDS TO BE EXERCISED!

#### PILLAR #1

#### **Activation**

**Organizing** 

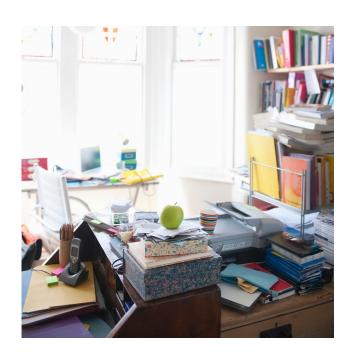
**Time Management** 



The ability to keep track of things in space, in stuff & in time

#### Organization

## The Brain Craves Predictability Calm vs Chaos





#### **Ordered Structures**

Consistency

**Organized Spaces** 





#### Reading the Room

Label, Label
Schedules|Calendars
Rules|Reminders|Photos
Task Cards





## Rules of Thumb Remove Barriers to Entry

If they don't see it, it doesn't exist

If it takes more than 2-3 steps to do....

Pictures tell the story

Color code **EVERYTHING!** 



#### Time Management



# Externalize Time to Internalize Time

#### Analog Clocks

Hang clocks in every room your students spend time in

**Including HALLWAYS** 



#### Every School Needs Analogs



Analog allow you to see time move and where you are in relation to the rest of the day.



Present time, elapsed time, future time.



Helps to understand how long you've spent on tasks and how much time you have left.



Digital gives one time – THE PRESENT!

# PAUSE PICTURE PACE



#### Alarms | Timers



# Hold future time Provide time checks

Allow students to see "Done"

#### PILLAR #2

**Focus** 

**Focusing** 



Auditory vs Visual Processing

#### Focus

#### Secondary Focusing



Flashlighting





#### **Use Experiential Experiences**

Games

**Storytelling** 

**Play** 

**Twister** 

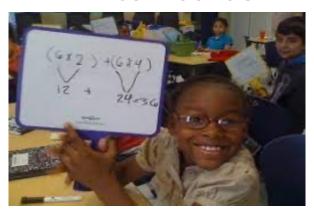
**Videos** 

Music

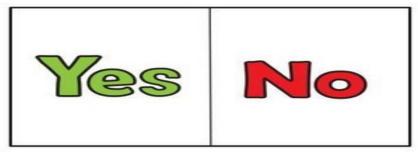


#### You Put Your Whole Self In!

#### **White Boards**



#### **Responsive Cards**



#### **Guided Notes**

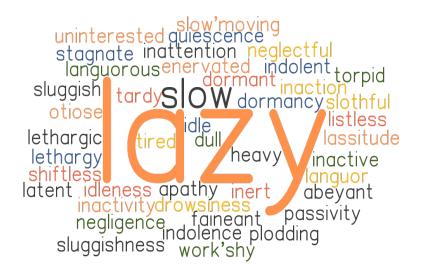
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#### PILLAR #3

**Effort** 

**Sustaining Effort.** 

Distractions.



The ability to take or sustain action on a task

#### You Had Them at HELLO



Talk in sound bites

Pre-empt topic and time

Can you bring your effort level up to me?

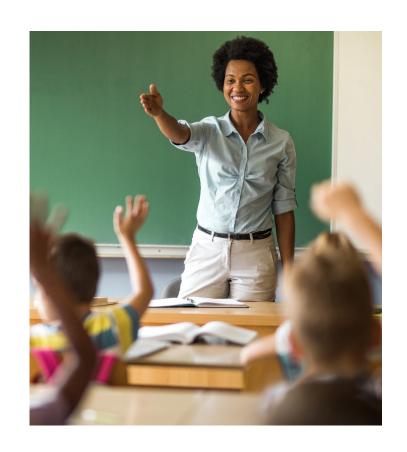
#### High Effort | Low Effort

Structure lessons using a high effort | low effort model

5-minutes for prep or "do-now"

20-minute instruction

10-minute solo or group activity



#### PILLAR #4

#### **Managing Emotions**

Stuck

**Frustrated** 

**Explosive** 

**Anxious** 

**Overwhelmed** 



#### Managing Emotions

Reduce the amount of work or information.

Give students an emotional outlet.

Give students choices for expression.

Allow music.





#### PILLAR #5

#### **Working Memory**

Remembering ...

or

Performance in the Front/Knowledge in the Back



### Set up routines & rituals for EVERYTHING!



Have students repeat info backwards



Stop answering questions when none were asked

## LINK THE UNKNOWN TO THE KNOWN

#### **Guided Questioning**

Where have you seen this?

What is this similar to?

What do you recognize?

What is new to you?

How does this connect with what we've already learned?

What is confusing to you?

#### PILLAR #6

#### **Action:**

Monitoring Actions
Self Leadership



Naughty vs Neuro

#### Movement

#### Helps

**Manage Impulses** 

**Focus and Sustain Attention** 

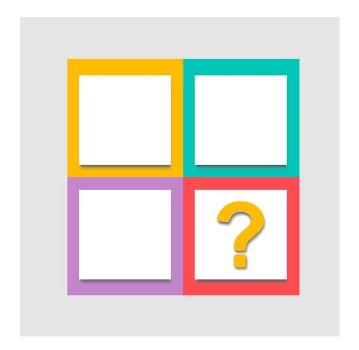
**Distractibility** 

**Lay Down Learning** 

**Recall Information** 



#### Q & A



#### For More Information & Resources



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