



Tools for Explaining Autism to Kids and Caregivers

Presented by: Liz Angoff, PhD

Delivery method: On-Demand

Instruction level: Intermediate

Sponsored by: NCS Pearson, Inc.

Course Description

Explaining autism to caregivers and kids can be tricky. Families may feel overwhelmed, worry about stigma, or get stuck in confusing, deficit-focused language, while kids may not even have the language to describe their experiences. To help, this workshop gives clinicians a clear, practical way to guide these conversations. You'll learn how to start this conversation at the intake session, reduce overwhelm with a structured feedback flow, and explain autism in an affirming way that highlights both strengths and support needs. You'll leave with kid-friendly scripts, metaphors, and tools—from analogue to AI—that you can use immediately.

Learner Outcomes

After completing this learning track, the participants will be able to:

1. Create neurodiversity-affirming ways of describing autism in kid-friendly language
2. Create strengths-based descriptions of autism using AI tools
3. Use developmentally appropriate scripts, metaphors, and tools to affirmingly explain autism to children and caregivers

Time-Ordered Agenda

20 minutes	Explaining autism to caregivers
20 minutes	Explaining autism to kids
10 minutes	AI to empower families
10 minutes	Q&A

About the Presenter

Liz Angoff, PhD, is a Licensed Educational Psychologist with a Diplomate in School Neuropsychology, providing assessment and consultation services to children and their families in the Bay Area, CA. She is the author of the Brain Building Books and Our Brains, empowering neurodivergent children to understand, celebrate, and advocate for their amazing brains. More information about Dr. Liz and her work is available at www.ExplainingBrains.com.

Disclosure

Financial: Dr. Angoff is receiving a stipend from Pearson for this presentation. Dr. Liz Angoff is the publisher of *The Brain Building Book*, *Brain Building 101*, and *Our Brains*, and receives proceeds from the sales of these books. She has an affiliate relationship with BastionGPT, which is used in her practice. Proceeds from this relationship support the Brain Building Donation Program and the provision of free resources on her website.

Non-financial disclosure: There are no relevant nonfinancial relationship to disclose.

NCS Pearson, Inc., the sponsor of this learning track, develops and distributes assessments and intervention tools for speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and psychologists. This offering will include information that pertains to the effective and appropriate use and interpretation of assessment findings and related clinical information as they are communicated to children and caregivers through strengths-based, neurodiversity-affirming feedback practices.

References

- Aschieri, F., van Emmerik, A. A. P., Wibbelink, C. J. M., & Kamphuis, J. H. (2023). A systematic research review of collaborative assessment methods. *Psychotherapy, 60*(3), 355–369. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pst0000477>
- Pellicano, E., & den Houting, J. (2022). Annual research review: Shifting from 'normal science' to neurodiversity in autism science. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 63*(4), 381–396. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13534>
- Woods, S. E. O., & Estes, A. (2023). Toward a more comprehensive autism assessment: The survey of autistic strengths, skills, and interests. *Frontiers in Psychiatry, 14*, Article 1264516. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2023.1264516>



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 - Is credentialed by a state regulatory agency to practice audiology or speech-language pathology
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