Autism Conversations: Linking the MIGDAS-2 Sensory-Based Diagnostic Interview Process to Practical Intervention Strategies

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Abstract: School psychologists increasingly face the complex process of identifying students with autism spectrum differences. This is particularly challenging when students with strong cognitive abilities and verbal fluency are referred for school-based autism evaluations. This session introduces participants to the MIGDAS-2 sensory-based diagnostic tool, designed by and for school evaluators to comprehensively gather the descriptive information necessary to effectively recognize autism spectrum brain style differences in students. Participants will gain diagnostic interview tools as well as tools to link the diagnosis to practical intervention strategies in three key areas.

Learner Objectives:

1. Become familiar with the MIGDAS-2 diagnostic interview protocols for students across age and ability levels, including how to structure the sensory-based student interview using sensory materials and preferred topics.

2. Use an organizing framework to develop an individualized student behavioral profile that highlights areas of strength as well as differences based on the qualitative information collected through the MIGDAS-2 process.

3. Identify and apply practical intervention strategies in the three key areas of organization, emotional regulation, and social narrative skills development.

Biography: Dr. Marilyn Monteiro, a licensed psychologist and licensed specialist in school psychology, is an expert in the area of autism spectrum brain style differences. She is the author of two books and a test protocol and is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences. She maintains a practice in Dallas, Texas that specializes in supporting individuals with autism spectrum differences and their families. Dr. Monteiro, consults in area school districts and provides national training for school evaluators in the areas of autism team evaluations and school-based interventions.