Autism Evaluations: Individualizing the Diagnosis Across Age and Ability Levels

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Abstract: School psychologists increasingly face the challenge of recognizing the full range of autism spectrum differences and discussing individual diagnostic results with parents and teachers. Parents and teachers look to school psychologists to provide a compelling description of the individual child that goes beyond the label of autism. Participants will learn how to use a visual framework and descriptive language to individualize the diagnosis of autism spectrum differences across age and ability levels using the MIGDAS-2 evaluation process.

Learning Objectives:

1. Use a visual framework and descriptive language to organize their behavior observations into an individualized student behavioral profile.

2. Use a practical framework and descriptive language to discuss the singular presentation of the child’s autism brain style differences when discussing a diagnosis with parents and teachers.

3. Identify the four key narrative shifts for children with autism spectrum differences and their families.

4. Learn to integrate the use of the MIGDAS-2 process with the use of additional measures, such as autism-specific behavior rating scales and the ADOS-2.

Biography: Dr. Marilyn Monteiro is a licensed psychologist and licensed specialist in school psychology. She 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.