Deficits in theory of mind (ToM) are the heart of the social communicative difficulties exhibited by children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Social Communication Disorder (SCD), a new diagnostic category recommended by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual-5 (DSM5) Task Force. Recent and ongoing research on ASD and SCD suggests that deficits or aberrations in mirror neuron function is at the heart of this population’s communication challenges. Strategies for assessing and developing ToM in these populations must reflect an understanding of this new research. Given the role of ToM in social and academic functioning and the recent increase in our understanding of the neurological and environmental factors that contribute to ToM, it is important that educators, speech-language pathologists, and therapists recognize delays and deficits in ToM.

The goal of this seminar is to promote ToM strategies that are consistent with the DSM5 updates and to encourage continued exploration of communication approaches that will ultimately lead to a new understanding of the unique learning styles of this population.

PRESENTER
CAROL WESTBY, PhD, CCC-SLP, began her professional career in New York where she initiated the development of the Play Scale. In New Mexico, she has written and implemented grant projects to support personnel preparation, clinical service, and research, and most recently was consulting with the New Mexico Preschool for the Deaf which employs a play-based curriculum. She is a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and holds Specialty Recognition in Child Language. She has received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Geneva College and the University of Iowa’s Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, the ASHA Award for Contributions to Multicultural Affairs, and the Honors of ASHA. She has been a visiting professor at Rinders University in South Australia where she worked on a language/literacy curriculum, and at Brigham Young University where she has consulted on an emergent literacy program and the development of an assessment and intervention protocol for students with ADHD.

Dr. Westby has published and presented nationally and internationally on play assessment and development, language-literacy relationships, narrative development and facilitation, assessment and facilitation of written language, and issues in assessment and intervention with culturally/linguistically diverse populations. She has written articles and book chapters on play and frameworks for literacy language assessment and intervention.

Presenter disclosure information available at: www.health-ed.com/speakerdisclosures

"Dr. Westby makes a very complex subject come alive and accessible. She is a scholar yet down to earth, making learning exciting." Lynne V. Koch, Speech-Language Pathologist

Additional seminar titles by Dr. Westby now available OnDemand!
**Agenda**

**Theory of Mind: Going to the Heart of Autism Spectrum Disorders & Social Communication Disorder**

**Development & Assessment of Theory of Mind**

Theory of Mind Deficits in Communicative Disorders
- Neurologically-based
- Differentiating Autism Spectrum Disorder & Social Communication Disorder

**Environmentally-based**

Deafness
- Reactive Attachment Disorder
- Underlying Theory for Social Mind

**Interventions for Theory of Mind**

Identifying Underpinnings & Developing Foundations of ToM
- Building ToM Precursors Through Playful Social Relationships
- Learning About Emotions With Apps & Computer Programs

**Promoting Theory of Mind & Inferenceing**

Promoting Interpersonal ToM & Inferenceing Through Children’s Literature
- Promoting Intrapersonal ToM Through Literature

**Theory of Mind**

Higher Order Theory of Mind
- Emergent Theory of Mind (First-Order ToM)

Carol Duffy, OTR/L

**Program Planning Team:** Carol Westby, PhD, CCC-SLP; Linda R. Schreiber, MS, CCC-SLP

A description for this seminar by Carol Westby, will be provided to each registrant.

For additional hotel information, including driving directions and parking, please contact the district contact for recognition of this seminar. That you check with your Professional Development Committee/Coordinator or the school licensing board for eLearning seminars.

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**Theory of Mind: Going to the Heart of Autism Spectrum Disorders & Social Communication Disorder**

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**Program Planning Team:**

Carol Westby, PhD, CCC-SLP; Linda R. Schreiber, MS, CCC-SLP; Carol Duffy, OTR/L

This seminar was very well done and informative, with great tools provided for treatment and evaluation skills.

Genea Herbig, MS, OTR/L

**Comprehensive Resource Manual Included with Your Registration:**

**Theory of Mind: Going to the Heart of Autism Spectrum Disorders & Social Communication Disorder**, designed specifically for this seminar by Carol Westby, will be provided to each registrant.

**Location**

**OCTOBER 18, 2013**

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