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## **Smart but Scattered Executive Dysfunction at Home and at School**

**Presenter: Peg Dawson, Ed.D.**

Youngsters with poor executive skills are disorganized or forgetful, have trouble getting started on tasks, get distracted easily, lose papers or assignments, forget to bring home the materials to complete homework or forget to hand homework in. They may rush through work or dawdle, they make careless mistakes that they fail to catch. They don't know where to begin on long-term assignments, and they put the assignment off until the last minute, in part because they have trouble judging the magnitude of the task and how long it will take to complete it. Their workspaces are disorganized, and teachers may refer to their desks, backpacks, and notebooks as "black holes." Students with executive skill deficits present tremendous challenges to both parents and teachers who often find themselves frustrated by children whose problems in school seem to have little to do with how smart they are or how easily they learn.

As a result of this workshop, participants will:

1. Be able to describe the brain processes involved in executive skill development both in typically developing children and those with executive dysfunction (such as ADHD).
2. Be able to identify how executive skills impact school performance and daily living.
3. Learn key strategies for improving executive skills in student, including 1) how to make environmental modifications to support weak executive skills, 2) how to design protocols for teaching executive skills, and 3) how to use incentives effectively to encourage students to engage in the practice necessary for improving executive skills.
4. Learn the critical features of a coaching method geared to improving school performance through supporting executive skill development.



**Date:** March 18, 2016

**Time:** 8:30-3:30

**Place:** Capitol Plaza, Montpelier, VT

**Cost:** \$175

Learn more and register at: <http://www.vthec.org>