



is pleased to present

Your Child's Brain: Organizing from the Inside Out

Presented by Sarah Ward, M.S., CCC/SLP

**Tuesday, March 16, 2010
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**



Learn strategies that support the development of a child's executive function skills:

- To improve student motivation and task initiation
- To increase a student's ability to make decisions and prioritize tasks
- To teach students to pace and monitor their workload/tasks and to effectively manage distractions
- To help students use prior experiences to guide future actions

Executive function skills is a term used to describe difficulties associated with goal setting, carrying out organized steps and modifying a plan to complete a task successfully. These skills are important for learning from past experiences and applying the knowledge in new experiences. Attention, memory, impulse control, organization, planning, and hierarchical thinking problems often described by parents and teachers are the executive function difficulties that can interfere with an individual's success in school. Young children rely on these skills to follow a sequence of instructions for daily tasks, while older children need these skills to "break a task down" into a sequence of steps and organize a time line as the demands for independent learning increase.

Sarah Ward, M.S., CCC/SLP, is an award winning Speech and Language Pathologist who has over fourteen years experience in diagnostic evaluations, treatment and case management of children, adolescents and adults with a wide range of developmental and acquired brain based learning difficulties and behavioral problems. Her particular interest is in the assessment and treatment of executive function deficits. Sarah is dedicated to developing innovative treatment strategies and educating the community to understand, care for and celebrate the learning and behavioral based differences in individuals with brain based learning differences. Sarah is the immediate Past President of the Massachusetts Brain Injury Association, is a member of the Massachusetts Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Board, the National Institutes of Health Model Systems Traumatic Brain Injury Grant Advisory Board and is a member of the American Speech and Language Hearing Association. She holds a guest faculty appointment at the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions.

Please RSVP to Laura Dempsey at 978-486-9874 or ldempsey@oakmeadow.org.