

Let's Talk Learning Disabilities

EPISODE 22

In this Episode, Laurie and Abbey talk about Educational Therapy with Educational Therapist and practice owner, Hannah Ross. Hannah is in the Los Angeles area, and shares what Educational Therapy is and how it can help learners of all ages.

What is Educational Therapy? (2 min)

Hannah Ross started her career in education as a school teacher who remembers being plagued with the overwhelming thought that she needed to meet each student at their learning level, and what a huge undertaking that could be. Although she had a relatively smaller class size of 25 students, the school setting can be a difficult environment to cater to all levels of learning, and that is how Hannah found Educational Therapy. Educational Therapy differs from tutoring in the way that learning and studying skills are focused on more than specific study matters at hand. Educational Therapists have specific training to support students who have learning disabilities that affect multiple areas of their learning. It is a very one on one approach to finding out what is helpful and areas of strengths and weaknesses for each student. Educational Therapists also work very collaboratively with the student's support system such as their teachers, parents, etc.

How Do Educational Therapists Assess the Learners they Work With? (13 min)

Many times a family may find the help of an Educational Therapist after receiving some type of diagnosis of a learning disability. Educational Therapists can use this newfound information to bring clarity to what can specifically help the student. Sometimes, students find Educational Therapists before having any type of assessments done, in which case, an Educational Therapist may take time to understand where a student is having issues, through observation and assessments. In the podcast interview, Hannah talks about using games as a great way to observe the way students problem solve,

listen and process instructions or directions. Taking information like this into consideration can add to the overall support that the student can be surrounded with. Educational Therapists can take information like this and realize a student needs assistance when given instruction verbally, whereas written instruction or directions can be followed with ease. Finding a student's specific strengths is so important to their overall success in learning and moving forward. The ultimate goal is always to not have to need Educational Therapy in the future.

Benefits of Educational Therapy (15 min)

A side effect of working with an Educational Therapist is learning how to self-advocate for the support you need, in order to perform at your full potential. Educational Therapists spend a lot of time talking about resources, helpful tools like multiplication tables, and sending emails to teachers or parents to develop a full support approach to helping the student learn at a higher level. Self-advocacy is so important, and is one of those life benefits that come from working with an Educational Therapist, just like learning to plan and study well, or managing a drawn out, or open-ended project. Each of those benefits translate into other areas of life, even beyond school years. Educational Therapists can help with learning at any age. Depending on where you're at when you find the help of an Educational Therapist, you may be working on focus, or information processing, or if you're later in life, you may be working on learning a new trade or skill, or even improving basic executive functioning skills.

Where Can I Connect with an Educational Therapist? (15 min)

Educational Therapists are not as widely known to the public as a readily available resource, there is still a lot of awareness that can happen around the topic, and understanding how they can be of help. Look at the association website for help, aetonline.org, or connect with educators who know about Educational Therapy or Learning Specialists. Hannah Ross is rebranding her practice to Summit Learning in the near future and is available in the Los Angeles area, and virtually as needed. For more help, contact her online and see the show notes for more resources.

Resources

Contact info for the podcast: letstalklearningdisabilities@gmail.com

E-Diagnostic Learning Website: <https://ediagnosticlearning.com>

Social:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eDiaglearning/>

Twitter: @diaglearning

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/diagnostic-learning-services/>

Instagram: @diaglearning

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