HOW AT CAN SUPPORT EXECUTIVE FUNCTION FOR GREATER INDEPENDENCE AND SUCCESS

1. EXECUTIVE FUNCTION
   How the brain takes in information, organizes that information and does something with it.

   A. Concerns in the school setting...what does it look like?

   B. 5 areas of executive function important for school function
       i. Organization
       ii. Planning
       iii. Working memory
       iv. Time Management
       v. Metacognition

2. WHAT SKILLS DO WE TEACH?

   A. How to Read a Room
      Sarah Ward and situational intelligence “Situational intelligence is the ability to Read a Room” Situational intelligence is needed for executive control

       i. STOP acronym

           1. S = Space
2. T= Time

3. O=Objects

4. P=People

ii. Assistive technology to consider to support the ability to Read a Room

1. Sensory Modulation Tools and Materials

2. STOP sign visual tool

B. How to be a Future Thinker

90% of the time, task planning happens in a different space from where you execute the plan. When executive function is impaired, a mental picture of the future is often absent.

i. Assistive technology to consider to support the ability to be a Future Thinker

1. Feature blocking visuals

2. Backpack tags

3. Get Ready, Do, Done tools (Sarah Ward)
   
   a. Visual planner in variety of sizes
   
   b. Analog clock
   
   c. Visual timers
d. **My Power Clock**

C. More assistive technology to consider

While it is important to teach executive function skills, we also find value in encouraging greater independence and self-confidence when these skills are not yet mastered.

i. **Can Plan** iPad app

ii. **Octopus by Joy** icon-based vibrating watch

iii. Digital audio recording pen (**Smart Pen**)

D. Take away

i. Teach to read the room and think in the future

ii. Use visual-based low tech assistive technology to support these skills

iii. Additional assistive technology may enhance these skills and compensate for them

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Resources highlighted from:
Sarah Ward, MS CCC/SLP
Co Director of Cognitive Connections
efpractice.com
360 thinking Executive Function Program
Examples of sensory modulation tools and materials to support the ability to **Read a Room**

Example of a low tech tool to teach the skill of **Reading a Room**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Space</th>
<th>What is going on? What is expected and unexpected?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>What is happening right now?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objects</td>
<td>What do I need? Where will I get it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>What’s my role?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examples of low tech tools to support future thinking