

**Planning Post-Secondary Options:  
Special kids, Special Needs**  
presented by  
Imy F. Wax, M.S., LCPC, CEP

**WILL BEGIN SHORTLY AT**  
10 am Pacific ~ 11 am Mountain  
12 pm Central ~ 1 pm Eastern

The Association of Educational Therapists is the national professional association for educational therapists. AET defines and sets standards for the professional practice of educational therapy.

Educational therapists provide a broad range of individualized educational interventions for children and adults with learning challenges.

[www.aetonline.org](http://www.aetonline.org)

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Welcome to

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Save the Dates - October 20-22, 2017  
Association of Educational Therapists Conference



**Technology and  
Innovative Practice**

**Featuring**  
**Lucy Jo Palladino, Ph.D. and Maryanne Wolf, Ph.D.**

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- ✓ Identify the core skills that every student needs *BEFORE* leaving to college
- ✓ Identify “FUNctions” required to be successful at college
- ✓ Understand what are the frequent “Failures” – those elements without which college success is less likely
- ✓ Align what colleges are offering with the needs of the student.
- ✓ Differentiate the services being offered at colleges

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**College Graduation Rates**

**Private: 65%**

**Public : 58%**



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**College Completion Statistics**  
  
2 – Year Associates Degree      5%  
  
4 – Year Bachelor’s Degree      19%  
  
4 – Year Bachelor’s Degree in  
a flagship or research  
university      36%



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**FAILURE: Potential Causes**  
  

- Stress
- Self-understanding
- Yields to pressure
- Drugs
- Ill-equipped
- Lack of metacognitive skills
- Poor grades/Missing classes



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**Student Criteria:**  
  

- Friends
- Sporting events
- Reputation
- Like the dorms
- Climate
- Distance from home
- Parents’ influence
- Fantasy/Imagination



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College Students Need to Know Who They Are

- Emotionally
- Psychologically
- Socially
- Academically
- Core skills
- Disposition for learning
- Level of distress tolerance



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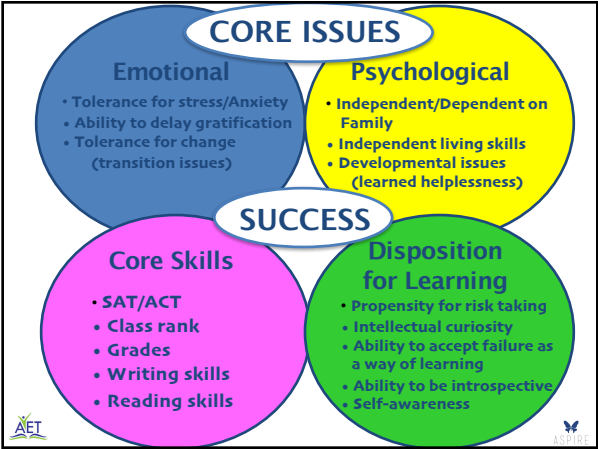
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Emotionally

- Tolerance for stress
- Ability to delay gratification
- Tolerance for change / transition



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### Psychologically

- Independence from / Dependence on family?
- Independent living skills?
- Thinking skills?



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### Disposition for Learning

- Knowing oneself
  - Risk-taking?
  - Curiosity?
  - Accept failure as a way of learning?
  - Honest with self?



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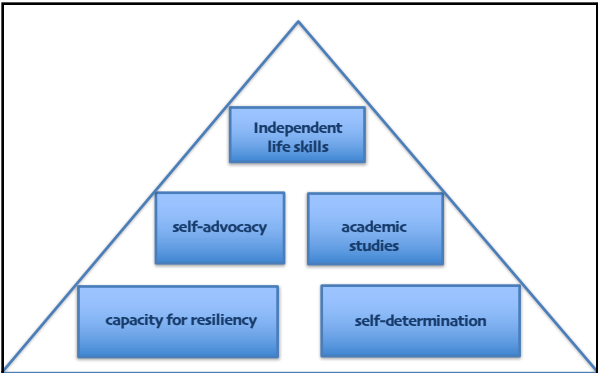
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**FUNctions for College Success**

- Balance
- Plan, Prioritize, Prevent Procrastination
- Set Goals & Action Plans
- Manage Time – Get it Done
- Use all the Senses
- Limit Distractions
- Practice Metacognition & Mindfulness

**Independence is Possible**  
**Practice + Practice + Practice**



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**Role of the Student**

- + Own the process
- + Understand strengths & weaknesses
- + Take academic risks
- + Be realistic
- + Accept their disability
- + Be motivated to work longer and harder



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**Role of the Parent**

- o Be supportive
- o Stay involved
- o Understand the disability
- o Be realistic
- o Encourage challenge
- o Assess needs
- o Be an advocate



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**Role of the Counselor**

- ✦ Start where the client is
- ✦ Understand the disability
- ✦ Understand the IEP
- ✦ Advise, plan, and encourage
- ✦ Assess potential
- ✦ Understand high school/college services
- ✦ Provide college & career information



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**Role of the Educational Therapist**

- ✦ Help student understand their strengths & weaknesses in real-life terms
- ✦ Develop student's learning strategies and appropriate selection of classes & teachers
- ✦ Support the parents
- ✦ Teach self-advocacy from the start



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**Role of the Educational Therapist**  
*- continued -*

- ✦ Foster resilience and flexibility
- ✦ Teach executive functioning, self-monitoring, self-regulation, time management
- ✦ Prep psychologically for post-secondary changes & challenges



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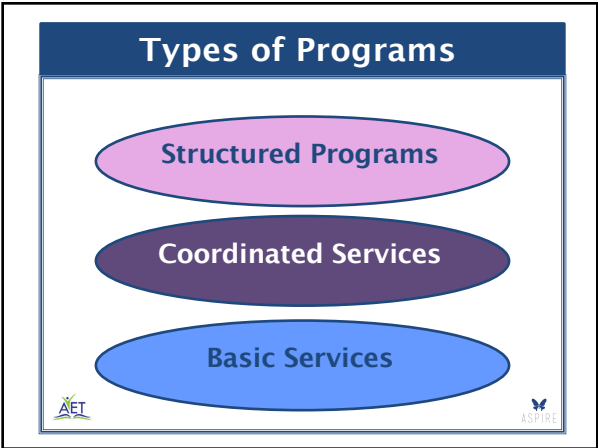
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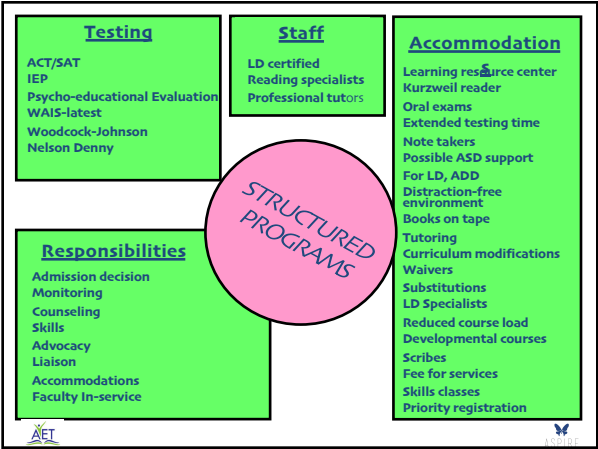
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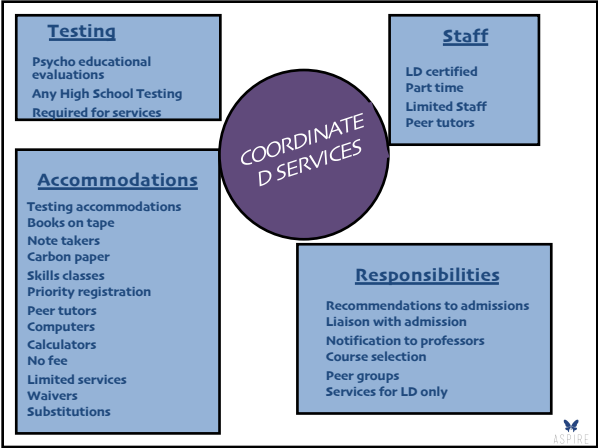
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Basic Services

Schools that comply with Section 504 mandates, rarely have specialized LD staff, do not have monitoring, and are totally dependent on student advocacy.



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Compliance Plus

Knowledgeable about LD

Test accommodations

Wavers

Substitutions

Peer tutors

Counseling

Books on tape

Auxiliary books on tape

No cost

Services for all disabilities

Liaison with faculty

Advocacy

BASIC SERVICES

Compliance to #504

Little knowledge of Special Needs

Complies to federal regulations



Basic services

Student request needed

No liaison with admission

Services all disabilities

Limited staff



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Summer Considerations

- <https://summer.gwu.edu/precollege>
- Summer camps dedicated to students with LD, ADHD, ASD
- Begin work on college essays
- Good time to add Extra-Curricular activities



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# PLAN 'B'

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## A few Imy tips ...

(for parents)

- Know how your child learns and make sure that your child knows too.
- Think LIFE SUCCESS rather than school success
- Nothing worthwhile in life happens over night...hang in there!

## Persevere!

Never, never, never, never ... give up!



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# ASPIRE GROUP



## Thank you !

[www.THEASPIREGROUP.com](http://www.THEASPIREGROUP.com)

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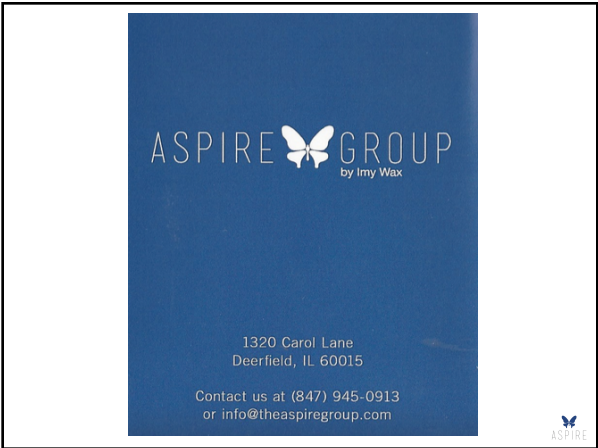
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