

SEMINAR 1

Using AI to Elevate Your OT and PT Interventions

Applications Across Various Areas of OT and PT Practice

with Michelle Silverman, OTD, OTR, ATP

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Do you ever feel like you are spending more time creating materials or searching for intervention ideas than actually delivering therapy? As demands on school-based OT and PT practitioners continue to grow, many practitioners are looking for efficient, ethical ways to enhance their interventions while maintaining clinical reasoning and professional oversight. Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools are emerging as powerful supports when used thoughtfully and responsibly. In this seminar, Michelle will explore how AI can be leveraged as a practical tool across multiple areas of OT and PT practice. You will learn ethical guidelines and a human-centered framework for AI use, along with strategies for applying AI to MTSS initiatives, PT intervention, communication support, as well as finding and understanding research literature. Michelle will demonstrate how AI can help generate intervention materials, such as checklists, social stories, visual schedules, gamification of tasks, executive function supports, and provision of assistive technology. Through multiple case vignettes various areas of OT and PT practice, you will see how AI can streamline preparation, increase efficiency, and expand intervention possibilities. The session will also address how to critically review and refine AI-generated content for accuracy, bias, and alignment with evidence-based practice. Leave this course with practical strategies, ethical safeguards, and innovative ideas you can apply immediately to elevate your interventions using AI.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the completion of the course, the learner is expected to:

1. Identify 3 guidelines for ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for OT and PT practice.
2. Determine 3 areas of OT or PT practice that would benefit from use of AI.
3. Apply 3 strategies for using AI to support OT or PT interventions for enhancing participation in meaningful occupations of a given case study of a child or youth with disabilities.

AGENDA: 3 hours

- Brief Overview of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - Guidelines for Best Practice When Using AI
- AI for Interventions
 - MTSS
 - OT and PT Areas of Practice
- AI for Communication
- AI for Seeking and Understanding Research Studies
- Takeaways

INSTRUCTOR: Michelle Silverman, OTD, OTR, ATP is an Education Consultant for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction with a focus on occupational therapy, physical therapy and assistive technology. Disclosures: Michelle receive speaking fee from Apply EBP, LLC. She has no relevant nonfinancial relationships to disclose.

AUDIENCE: OTs, OTAs, PTs and PTAs

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL: Intermediate

SEMINAR 2

Introduction to the Ready to Learn and Play Framework

Supporting Sensory Regulation through a Strengths-based Lens

with Janis Leinfuss, OTD, OTR/L, Amanda Newchok, MS, OTR/L, and Erin O'Hara, MS Ed, OTR/L

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Sensory regulation is essential for learning and social participation, yet it is often misunderstood and addressed through a deficit-based lens. For children with sensory processing differences, challenges like sensory avoidance, seeking, or overload are not “bad behaviors,” but important clues to what their bodies need. OT practitioners, and their interdisciplinary PT partners, play a vital role in reframing these actions and supporting children and youth to find regulation strategies that work. In this seminar, Dr. Janis Leinfuss, OTD, OTR/L, Amanda Newchok, MS, OTR/L, and Erin O'Hara, MS Ed, OTR/L, will introduce you to the Ready to Learn and Play (RtLP) Framework—a neurodiversity-affirming, strengths-based approach to sensory regulation. They will guide you through its four phases: (1) Sensory Experience, (2) Sensory Choices, (3) Generalization, and (4) Application. Using practical tools such as ME Stories, sensory choice cards, the Functional Learning Assistance Guide (FLAG), and personal choice boards, you will learn how to support children in recognizing their own sensory clues and expanding their repertoire of regulation strategies. Through case studies spanning elementary to young adult transitions, the presenters will illustrate how the RtLP Framework can be embedded into therapy sessions, classrooms, and community settings. They will also demonstrate how OT and PT practitioners can collaborate with teachers, paraprofessionals, related services, and families to foster consistent use of strategies across environments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the completion of the course, the learner is expected to:

1. Identify 3 benefits of the Ready to Learn and Play (RtLP) framework in addressing sensory regulation needs
2. Determine 3 RtLP activities that can help children recognize and understand their own sensory regulation
3. Apply 3 RtLP strategies in a given case study to promote the school, home, and/or community participation of a child with sensory regulation needs

AGENDA: 3 hours

- Impact of Dysregulation on Availability to Learn & Occupational Performance
- Neurodiversity Affirming Lens
- Ready to Learn and Play (RtLP) framework
 - Phase I: Sensory Experience
 - Phase II: Sensory Choices
 - Phase III: Generalization
 - Phase IV: Application
- Case Studies

Course Details for GASOPT: October 1, 2026



INSTRUCTORS: Dr. Janis Leinfuss, OTD, OTR/L is a specialist in Sensory Processing and Integration Disorder, certified in the evaluation and treatment of SPD by the Sensory Therapies and Research Institute, specializing in the treatment of children with Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) and neurodivergence. Amanda Newchok, MS, OTR/L graduated from Quinnipiac University with her Bachelor's of Science degree in Occupational Therapy and went on to receive a Master's of Science in Health Care Management from the College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown, NJ. Erin O'Hara, MS Ed, OTR/L received her training from Quinnipiac University, Johns Hopkins University and has a certification in Sensory Integration from the University of Southern California. Disclosures: Janis Leinfuss, Amanda Newchok, and Erin O'Hara receive speaking honoraria from Apply EBP, LLC. Janis Leinfuss, Amanda Newchok, and Erin O'Hara are authors of the Ready to Learn and Play (RtLP) framework. Attendees do not have to purchase anything from the speakers to implement the RtLP framework. They have no other relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

AUDIENCE: OTs, PTs, OTAs and PTAs

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL: Intermediate