



# School - A case study Four years and the changing nature of educational therapy

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## **Session objective:**

Informed by the reciprocal compromise principle and organic curriculum as discussed in detail by Dorothy Ungerleider, I will trace the journey through middle school that captures some of the critical aspects of ET in action. Just as middle school is fraught with smiles, tears and unexpected angst, so too is educational therapy with young adolescents.



# Introductions, Principle & Curriculum

- June 2017: “ I’m writing to explore what we can do to help my son....
  - Rising sixth grader...
  - 18 months of weekly sessions
- Reciprocal compromise - hallmark of the relationship
- Organic curriculum -- illustrated through the journey
- Allied professionals and academic interventions



# Reciprocal Compromise Principle

1993 -- Couched in Self-psychology, Paula Fuqua captures the learning process in detail

## Learning is

- biologically driven and is adaptive
- defined as change in self structure
- facilitated by some structural disruption
- interfered with by too much disruption
- facilitated by the presence of a knowledgeable self who helps manage levels of change, disruption, novelty and stability

2011 -- With an in-depth exploration of the broad range of interventions, Dorothy Ungerleider uncovers and illustrates what goes on behind the clinician's door -- "Begin with what your clients want to know and soon they will let you teach them what they need to know."



# Organic Curriculum

The organic curriculum is the result of exercising reciprocal compromise within the therapy hour, across learning units, and throughout the developmental realities of an emerging adolescent.

Why take notes?

Monthly summaries/check-ins

Wrapping up (end of year) and Diving in (start of year)



# Interconnected Phases

Just as middle school is fraught with smiles, tears and unexpected angst, so too is educational therapy with young adolescents.

**Diagnostic Intervention**

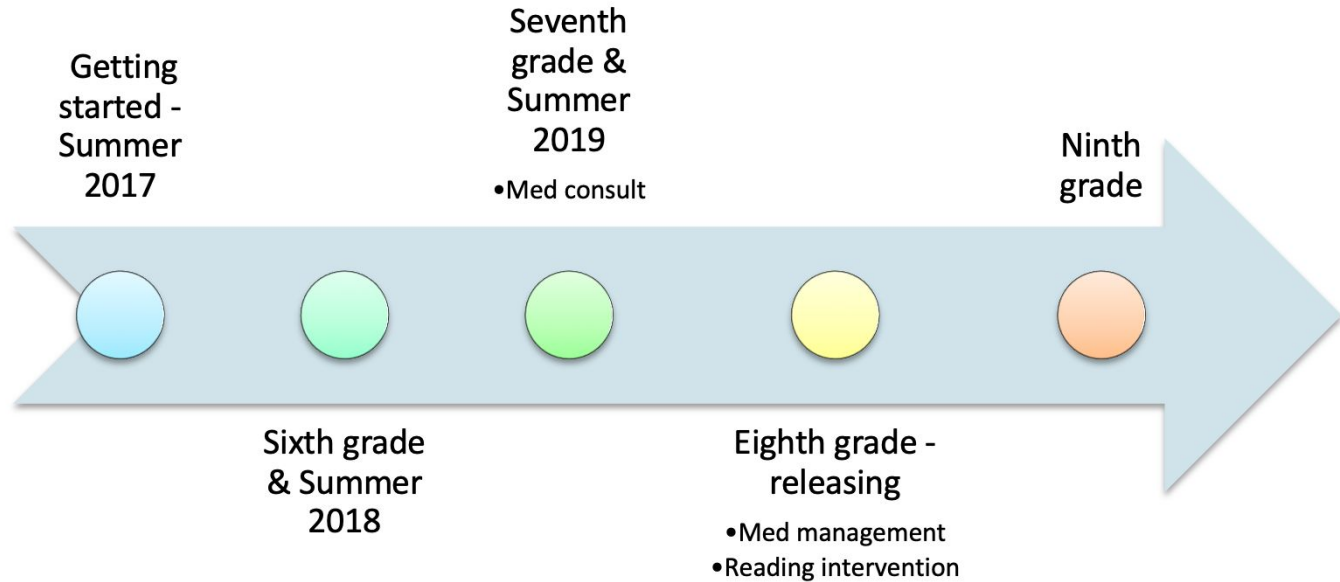
**Skill-building**

**Gradual release**

*NO phase is ever complete; however, at different stages, each will take on the primary role*



# Timeline





# Diagnostic Intervention & Getting Started

Cultivating relationships, establishing rapport (trust) and clarifying goals, roles and means

- Phone & email exchange
- Meeting and interacting with student -frame the experience
- Reading accompanying documentation
- Formulating and communicating a plan
- Explicit - goals, plan, parameters, fees, timing, trajectory



Summer 2017...



## **Skill-building** & **Diagnostic Intervention**

Establishing rapport

Habits, routines, rhythms and skills

Fall 2017 / Winter 2018...



## Skill-building & Diagnostics

Routines, rhythms and skills

Subject-specific work; interactions with teachers

Teasing out the cognitive profile

Spring 2018...summer work?



## Gradual Release, **Skill-building**, & Diagnostics

What's working and where?

Not there yet...

What else do we need to know, understand and be able to do... getting ready for 7th grade

Where are the parents? Revisiting concerns, reciprocal compromise, achievement and looking ahead



# QUESTIONS 1

Pausing here...

What questions might you have related to getting started, articulating goals, reciprocal compromise and/or the organic curriculum?

COMING UP....

Gradual release, working with the school team, med consult, updated evaluations and 8th grade!

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# Revisiting the Interconnected Phases

NO phase is ever complete; however, at different stages, each will take on the primary role



Fall 2018...Spring 2019




## Gradual Release, **Skill-building**, & Diagnostics

What's working and where?

Not there yet...

What else do we need to know, understand and be able to do... getting ready for 8th grade

8th grade... 2019-2020...



# Gradual Release - moving toward autonomy

## Skill-building

Reinforcing what's working

Modeling and practice for task analysis, calendar/planner work

Talking about subject interventions that are ongoing

Adjustments and tweaking with context and foresight



# Gradual Release

## COVID and What's working

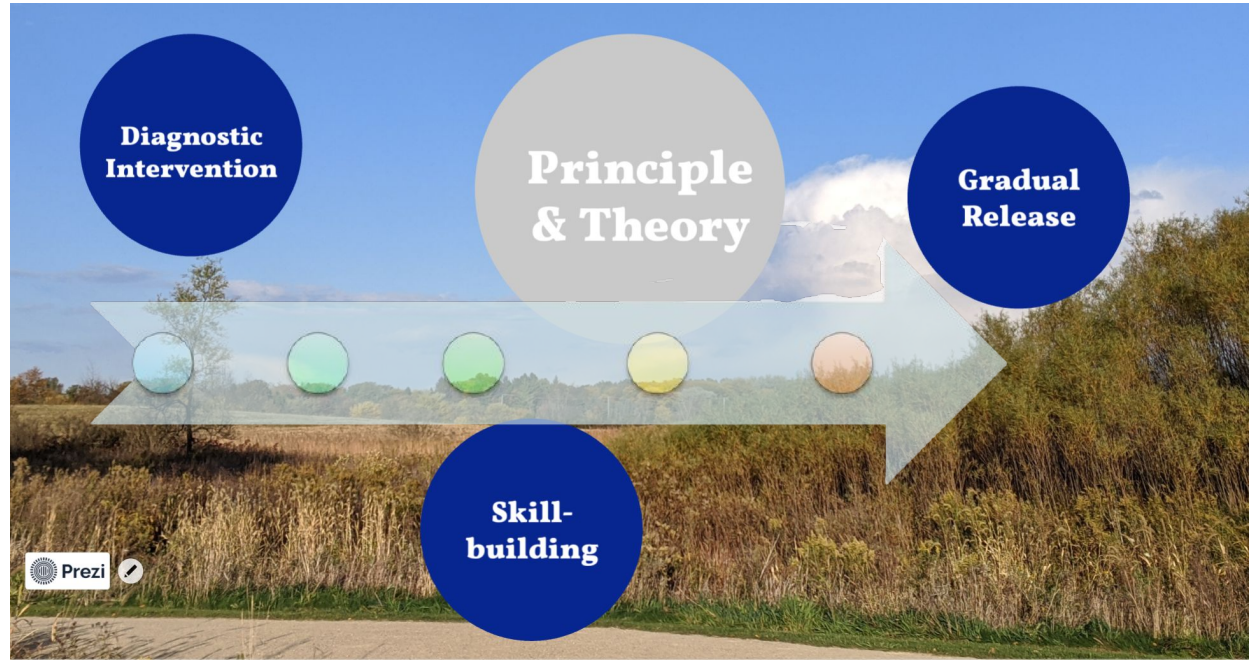
8th → 9th grade...

Parent support and communications

School support team, ISP and 504 planning



## Questions 2



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