

## **Neuroaffirming Assessment, Parenting, Advocacy, and Regulation**

Presented by: Cynthia Arnold, PhD and Susie Raiford, PhD

Autism Virtual Session 2025

Delivery method: On demand

Instructional Level: Intermediate

Sponsored by NCS Pearson, Inc.

### **Overview**

This intermediate level session is appropriate for clinicians interested in growing their expertise with autistic individuals. A parent of an autistic child interviews a clinical psychologist, Dr. Cynthia Arnold, who runs the award-winning New Leaves Clinic in Oregon and has decades of training and experience in assessment, diagnosis, therapy, and treatment planning for autistic individuals. Dr. Arnold offers reflections and perspectives on becoming an expert in assessment and neurodiverse affirming treatment of autistic individuals and their caregivers.

### **Learner Outcomes**

*Following this training, attendees will be able to:*

1. Describe the training and expertise necessary to become an effective practitioner working with autistic clients and/or their caregivers.
2. Discuss approaches to create a neuroaffirming home that teaches autistic individuals regulation, acceptance and advocacy
3. List the types of tools used in assessment of autism and the remaining needs in this area.

### **Time-Ordered Agenda**

10 minutes	Describe the training and expertise necessary to become an effective practitioner working with autistic clients and/or their caregivers.
40 minutes	Discuss approaches to create a neuroaffirming home that teaches autistic individuals regulation, acceptance, and advocacy.
10 minutes	List the types of tools used in assessment of autism and the remaining needs in this area.

### **About the Presenters**

Dr. Cynthia Arnold is a licensed psychologist and the founder of New Leaves Clinic in Hillsboro, Oregon. With a Ph.D. in psychology, Dr. Arnold has dedicated her career to the assessment and treatment of autism and related developmental disorders. She has published over 100 research articles, chapters, and books, and is renowned for her work on the Sensory Profiles, which have been translated into multiple languages. Dr. Arnold is a recipient of numerous awards, including the Award of Merit and the Eleanor Clark Slagle Lectureship. She is also recognized for her innovative and engaging teaching, having received the Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award and the Kemper Teaching Fellowship. Dr. Arnold's book, "Living Sensationally: Understanding Your Senses," has been featured in prominent publications such as Time magazine and Cosmopolitan.

Susan Engi Raiford, PhD, is a licensed psychologist and principal research director of Wechsler intelligence and other cognitive ability products in the education portfolio at Pearson. She has been a primary developer of the Wechsler intelligence scales since March, 2004. She has led projects such as the WISC-V, the WISC-V Integrated, the WAIS-IV, the WPPSI-IV, and the WAIS-5. She has authored and coauthored multiple books on assessment including Essentials of Psychological Tele-Assessment, Essentials of WISC-V Integrated Assessment, Intelligent Testing with the WISC-V, Essentials of WPPSI-IV Assessment, and WAIS-IV Clinical Use and Interpretation. She maintains a part-time private psychological assessment practice. Prior to becoming a psychological test developer, she obtained a graduate degree in community counseling then in clinical psychology and engaged in clinical work for ten years, providing assessment, psychotherapy, and consultation to individuals of all ages in inpatient, outpatient, school, and residential settings.

### **Disclosures**

**Financial:** Dr Cynthia Arnold receives a fee for this presentation. Dr Susan Raiford is an employee of Pearson.

**Non-financial disclosure:** No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists.

NCS Pearson, Inc. is the sponsor of the ADHD Virtual Summit 2025. Pearson develops and distributes assessments and intervention tools for speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and psychologists. This session will not focus on specific products or services but instead on the types of assessment tools that are used and the continuing needs for measures tailored to neuroaffirming assessment. No other assessments will be discussed during this training.

### **References**

- Kotowicz, A. (2022). What I mean when I say I'm autistic: Unpuzzling a life on the autism spectrum. Neurobeautiful.
- Neff, M. A. (2025). The autistic burnout workbook: Your guide to your personal recovery plan (self-care for autistic people). Adams Media.
- Price, D. (2022). Unmasking autism: Discovering the new faces of neurodiversity. Harmony.
- Price, D. (2025). Unmasking for life: The autistic person's guide to connecting, loving, and living authentically. Random House.
- Silberman, S. (2016). Neurotribes: The legacy of autism and the future of neurodiversity. Avery.



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Pearson is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Pearson maintains responsibility for this program and its content for the program

### **Assessment of Learning Outcomes**

The Continuing Education certificate requires 75% to pass the knowledge check questions.

**Qualified Professional Enrollment** | \$50 for Autism Summit (this session is included in the registration price). Attendees must meet our Level [B](#) qualification.

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