

Neuroaffirming Assessment of Autism

Presented by: A. Jordan Wright, PhD, ABAP, ABPP

Autism Virtual Summit 2025

Delivery method: On demand
Instructional Level: Introductory
Sponsored by NCS Pearson, Inc.

Overview

This session will present a model of assessing for the autistic neurotype that is focused on non-pathologizing constructs, while balancing the need for certain components (such as formal diagnosis) in order to access resources. The session is most appropriate for those familiar with signs and symptoms of autism, but it is appropriate for beginning audiences as well.

Learner Outcomes

Based on the content of this session, participants will be able to

1. Differentiate between neuroaffirming and traditional models of autism assessment
2. Describe three ways to be explicitly neuroaffirming in assessing the autism neurotype
3. Explain why diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder may still be necessary in autism assessments

Time-Ordered Agenda

15 minutes	Differentiating traditional models (<i>DSM</i>) and components of neuroaffirming definitions of autism
5 minutes	Determining if someone can have an autistic neurotype without meeting criteria of autism spectrum disorder
20 minutes	Measuring autistic traits, signs, and symptoms
10 minutes	Balancing neuroaffirming and diagnostic language in autism assessment reports
10 minutes	Q&A

About the Presenter

A. Jordan Wright is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Psychology at New York University and Chief Clinical Officer at Parallel Learning. He is board certified in assessment and clinical psychology. He specializes in psychological testing and assessment, having authored multiple widely used textbooks on the subject. He has conducted research and published widely on the evidence base behind assessment in general and tele-assessment specifically. His latest book is *Essentials of Culture in Psychological Assessment*, which came out in 2024.

Disclosures

Financial: Dr. A. Jordan Wright receives a fee for this presentation.

Non-financial disclosure: No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists.

NCS Pearson, Inc., is the sponsor of the Autism Virtual Summit 2025. Pearson develops and distributes assessments and intervention tools for speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and psychologists.

References

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