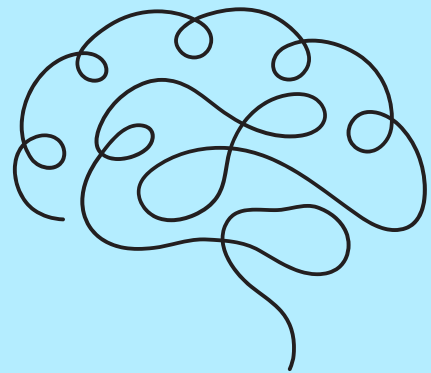


Executive Function Junction



FED Paraprofessional Training
Maria Theisen, Program Specialist

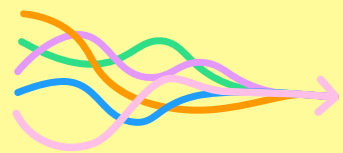
Executive Functioning Skills are the brain's management system.



embedded in every action we do
and are required to perform
tasks



necessary to manage our own
behaviors



interrelated - a difficulty in one area can
hinder success in completing a task

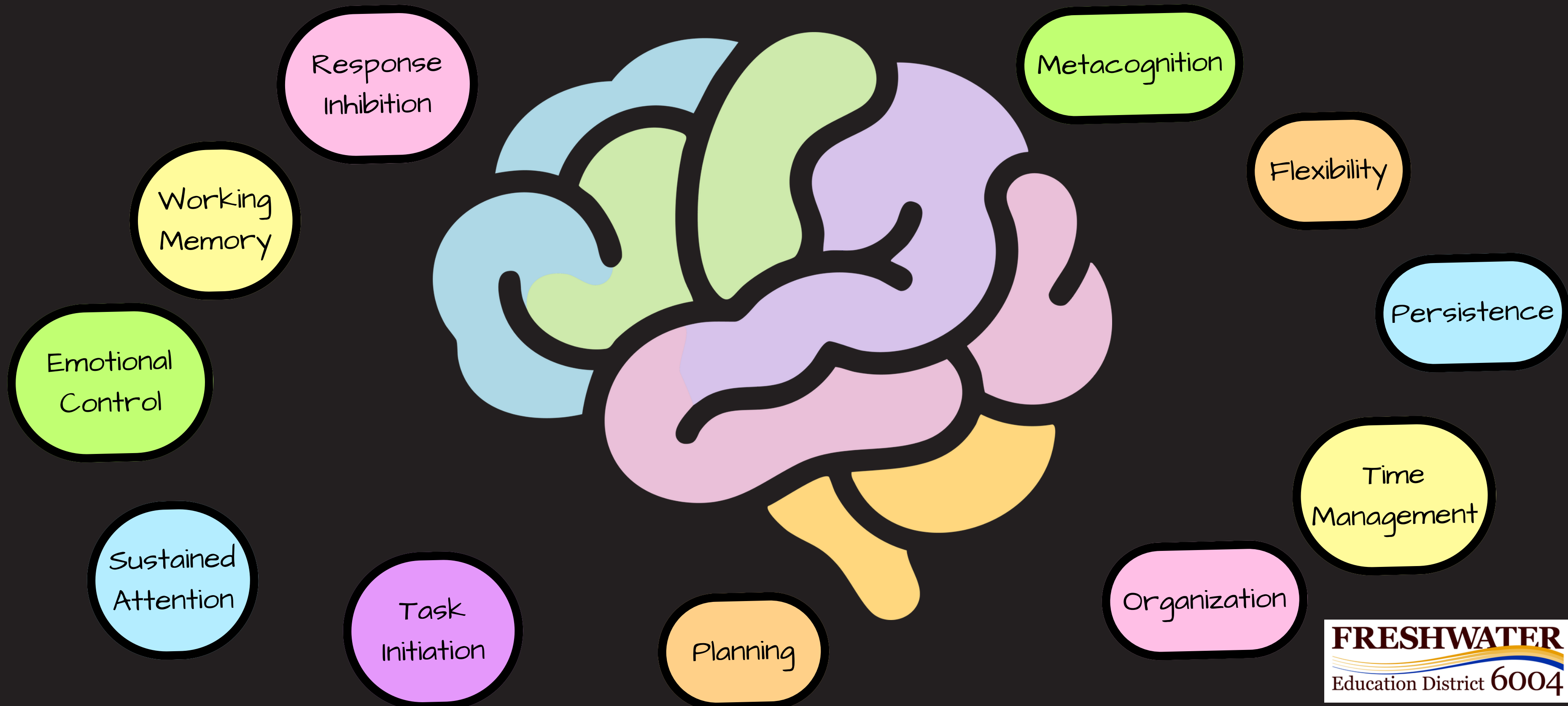




Develop in the frontal lobe of the brain until early adulthood.

Students can struggle with one or more areas and those with disabilities often have greater difficulty with one or more areas.

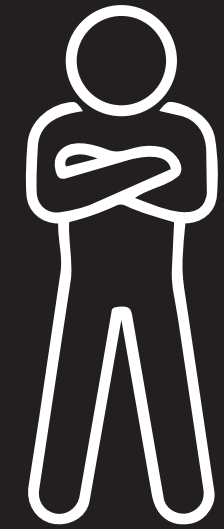
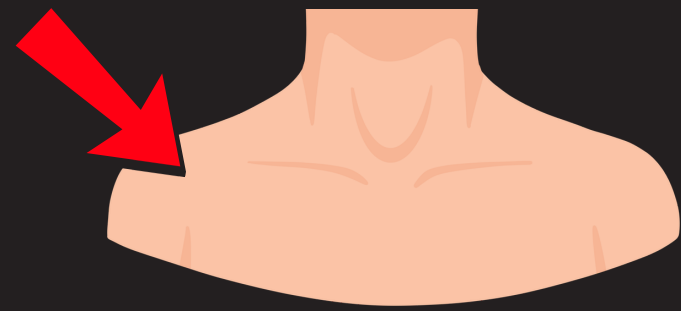
The 11 Executive Functioning Skills



Activity



Activity with Supports



- **Steps broken down**
- **Visual Supports**
- **Wait Time**
- **Modeling**

GOOD NEWS!

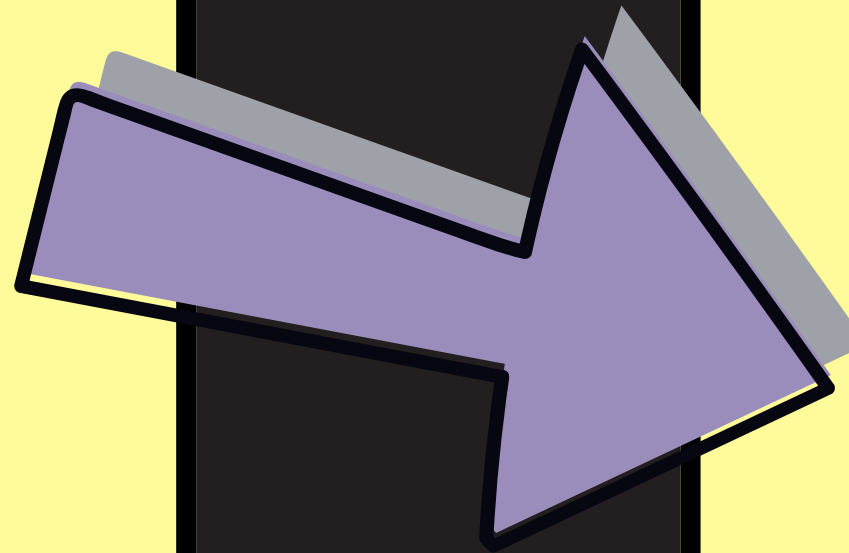
EF Skills can improve with teaching, support, practice, and accommodations while the adults “lend” skills through structures and supports.

Shifting our thinking

from

to

**Why won't this
student do this?**



**What skill might
this student be
missing, and how
can I support it?**

Key Take Aways:



Look for the skill behind the struggle – laziness, defiance, or lack of motivation are often signs of an executive functioning skill deficit.



Help students do what they cannot yet do independently by gradually building their ability to do it themselves.



Progress may be slow, but your daily interactions and support matter! Both help build the skills students will rely on tomorrow.

Examples of Supports...

offering breaks

creating predictable
routines and
structures

teach and practice
regulation strategies

giving extra time

modeling

practicing
routines

using countdown
timers

visual schedules
and checklists

breaking tasks
into smaller
chunks

providing
reminders and
cues

reducing
distractions

Resources:

The Autism Helper Executive Functioning

Pathway 2 Success - Executive Functioning in the Classroom

ADDitude - Executive Functioning

THANK
YOU!