



**Carol Cooper-Braun, MA**  
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*"...Obviously people are listening  
because there are programs and schools  
like this one..."*

Jon Elder Robison, author of *Look  
Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's*,  
while speaking at a conference with  
Carol Cooper-Braun

*"You have created a safe, welcoming  
and challenging environment in which  
these students can grow, explore, thrive  
and achieve what their parents hoped  
they could despite what tests, learning  
consultants and case managers might  
suggest."*

Susan Irgang, Newgrange parent

### ***Professional Profile***

#### **Started the Newgrange School Social Strides program in 2005**

- Designed social goals template for Social Strides and all Newgrange School students that are included in all IEP's
- Provided instructional leadership and guidance regarding IEP writing and goal implementation
- Directed employee training activities/staff development in topics such as emotional regulation, executive function, and social cognitive development
- Wrote prescriptive social stories to target social skills deficits identified by educators and parents
- Implemented collaboration with a multidisciplinary team of professionals by coordinating and directing monthly meetings to work to achieve individual student goals
- Designed curriculum for social skills and life skills classes
- Implemented weekly progress reports used for information and ongoing communication with parents of students
- Utilized current best practice teaching by research and attending professional development trainings and conferences
- Focused on the importance of the development of student friendships and going beyond teaching tolerance
- Started a program with 5 boys that grew to over 90 students from over 40 school districts in New Jersey and Pennsylvania
- Attended over 50 IEP meetings per year

### ***Education, Honors, and Certifications***

#### **M.A. in Teaching, Special Education Specialization**

The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ. 2004

#### **Bachelor of Arts in English**

Drew University, Madison, NJ. 1994

#### **Certifications**

Supervisor, 2020

Teacher of the Handicapped, 2004

Highly Qualified Teacher of English 2004

*"This program is a dream!"*

Millie Sherrer, Newgrange parent, commenting on the Newgrange Social Strides Program

*"My personal experience as a parent of a child with an autism spectrum disorder drives my professional experience. Raising a child with autism provides me with invaluable insight that gives me a true understanding of the difficulties these children and families face on a day-to-day basis and the passion to discover the most effective ways to help them."*

Carol Cooper-Braun

## **Honors**

ETS Recognition of Excellence for Praxis II: Score 183, top 15% in the nation

## **Key Qualifications**

Certified in Elementary (K-6), Teacher of the Handicapped (K-12), and Highly Qualified Teacher of English

Trained in Mindfulness Fundamentals and Mindfulness Educators

Wilson Language Trained: Level 1 Certification

Trained in Developing Metacognitive Strategies

Trained in LETRS, Language Essentials

Trained in Framing Your Thoughts, Project Read

Trained in Community Based Instruction, NJ Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Boggs Center of Developmental Disabilities, 2010

CPR and AED Certified American Heart Association

Received training in social skills/executive function/emotional regulation from Dr. Jed Baker, Dr. Tony Attwood, Dr. Ami Klin, Dr. Fred Volkmar, Michelle Garcia Winner, and Dr. Andrea Footerman, Sarah Ward, and Leah Kuypers, Dr. Temple Grandin

## **Employment**

- **Learning Specialist/Executive Function Teacher/Special Education Advocate**, January 2021 to present  
Princeton Speech-Language and Learning Center, Princeton, NJ
- **Social Strides Program Coordinator**, May 2005 to June 2020  
The Newgrange School, Hamilton, NJ
- **Teacher of English, Social Skills, and Life Skills**, 2005 to June 2020  
The Newgrange School, Hamilton, NJ
- **Resource Center/Inclusion Teacher**, 2005  
Bear Tavern Elementary School, Hopewell, NJ
- **Substitute Teacher/paraprofessional**, May 2002 to 2004  
South Brunswick School District, South Brunswick, NJ

## **Workshop Presenter/Director**

- *Technology for the Classroom; Reading Comprehension: Strategies for Students with ASD; Social Thinking* 2018-19 School Year Presenter for the Newgrange staff professional development
- *Strategies for Improving Executive Functioning Skills with Sarah Ward, MS CCC-SLP* May 2016 Planned, directed, and emceed professional development conference with 200 educators from all over NJ in Bordentown, NJ
- *Strategies for Teaching Students with NVLD*, May 2012  
Presented to educators and professionals  
Hainesport School District, Hainesport, NJ
- *From Rain to Rainbows: Success for Students with ASD's in the Classroom and Beyond*, April 2012  
Presented, following author John Elder Robison, to a group of 100 educators and professionals

The Scottish Rite, Bordentown, NJ

- *Intensive Social Skills Program for Students with ASD's and other Social Communication Impairments*, April 2011  
Co-authored presentation presented by Sandee Chalik, MS OTR/L at the The Council for Exceptional Children's National Conference in Baltimore, MD
- *Social Skills for Children with ASD's and other Social Communication Impairments*, October 2011  
Co-presenter at the NJ Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ
- *A Program for Children with ASD's and other Social Communication Impairments*, April 2010  
Poster presentation co-presenter at the American Occupational Therapy Association Convention in Orlando, FL

### ***Author***

- *Taking Away the Target: Help for Children with Social Challenges in a Socially Challenging World* (publication pending)
- *In My Words: TCNJ Oral History Project*  
PCI Publishing, 2022

### ***State Official/Community Involvement***

#### **Member of the Chesterfield Township Board of Education**

- October of 2021 to present
- Chair of Student Services Committee Jan. 2022 to present
- Member of Human Resources Committee Jan. 2024 to present

Chesterfield Public Education Fund (CPEF) Member 2016-present

#### **President 2017-2020**

Conducted monthly meetings

Organized fundraising efforts and events

Testified at Senate Budget Committee hearings for fair funding for NJ