

Carol Cooper-Braun, M.A.

Learning Specialist | Executive Function Coach | Speaker | Consultant

With over two decades of experience in special education, executive function coaching, and social skills development, Carol Cooper-Braun is a dedicated and dynamic learning specialist focused on empowering individuals to overcome academic, social, and personal challenges. As a Learning Specialist and Executive Function Teacher at Princeton Speech-Language & Learning Center, Carol provides tailored coaching and strategies to students of all ages, helping them navigate academic hurdles and achieve success in both school and life. Carol also serves as a passionate advocate, ensuring students' unique learning needs are met with appropriate accommodations in educational settings.

Carol Cooper-Braun is also the founder and coordinator of *Social Perks*®, a program at Princeton Speech-Language & Learning Center, designed to support adults with social cognition challenges by offering meaningful social opportunities. This initiative showcases her leadership in creating community-based programs. Previously, Carol served as the Social Strides Program Coordinator at The Newgrange School, where she designed and implemented social skills programs for students with social communication challenges, led professional development seminars, and collaborated with multidisciplinary teams to achieve individualized goals.

A lifelong learner and educator, Carol holds a master's in teaching with a Special Education specialization from The College of New Jersey and is certified in a range of areas including mindfulness, executive function strategies, and Wilson Language. She has received specialized training from top experts in the field, including Dr. Jed Baker, Sarah Ward, Dr. Temple Grandin, and Michelle Garcia Winner among others. She also earned a B.A. in English from Drew University and focuses on written expression, a skill that can be heavily impacted by challenges with the executive functions. Carol is also the *author of Taking Away the Target: Help for Social Challenges in a Socially Challenging World* and is currently working on a follow-up book, *Taking Away the Target Too: Social Challenges in Adulthood*.

Beyond her work in education, Carol is deeply engaged in her community. She currently serves as a school board member and Chair of the Student Services Committee for the Chesterfield Township Board of Education. She also holds a long-term position with the Chesterfield Public Education Fund, raising funds to provide essential educational materials and support.

Through her extensive experience, specialized training, and commitment to supporting individuals with diverse learning needs in her professional and personal life, Carol Cooper-Braun is dedicated to making a meaningful impact on the lives of students, educators, adult professionals, and the broader community.

CAROL COOPER-BRAUN

TEACHER, SPEAKER, ADVOCATE,
EXECUTIVE FUNCTION COACH, AUTHOR:
EXPERIENCED LEARNER



*"...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

Education, Honors, and Certifications

M.A. in Teaching, Special Education Specialization

The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ.

Bachelor of Arts in English

Drew University, Madison, NJ.

Certifications

Supervisor

Teacher of the Handicapped

Highly Qualified Teacher of English

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

"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

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

- *Executive Function Bootcamp* Notre Dame High School summer 2024
- *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 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

Started Social Perks© at PSLLC 2024 to present

- Created a group with facilitated social opportunities for adults with social cognition challenges

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 children that grew to over 90 students from over 40 school districts in New Jersey and Pennsylvania
- Attended over 50 IEP meetings per year

Other Fun Facts

- Mrs. New Jersey America 1998
- Spokesmodel/commercial actress for Acura of Ocean 1998-2001
- Spokesmodel/commercial actress for Jenny Craig 1998-2000