



MODULE 4

HOW DOES DUAL DIAGNOSIS AFFECT EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE?

COGNITIVE CHALLENGES

Students with dual diagnosis have an intellectual/developmental disability (IDD) characterized by significant impairment in intellectual functioning and deficits in adaptive behavior.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING

Students with dual diagnosis often have more trouble focusing, concentrating, and regulating their behavior and emotions. They may also become frustrated easily and overwhelmed with information.

MENTAL HEALTH

The mental health needs of students with IDD often go unidentified and untreated. Underlying mental health conditions may impact the student's social, emotional, and behavioral functioning and thinking processes.

BEHAVIOR CHALLENGES

Distress and mental health conditions often manifest themselves through observable challenging behavior. Behavior challenges are likely to affect functioning across settings and appear more intense than usual.

EMOTIONAL FUNCTIONING

Students with dual diagnosis frequently have a lower tolerance to stress and often do not have the regulation skills to cope appropriately or effectively.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONING

Students with dual diagnosis often have social skill deficits. Many also report having fewer friendships and higher rates of feeling lonely and isolated than those with IDD alone.

INTEGRATED SUPPORTS

Because of the complexity of these interacting challenges, students with dual diagnosis need integrated and intensive supports for academic, social, emotional, and behavioral functioning.

Visit www.projecttedd.org
for more information

References

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