



****CONFERENCE****
Nationally Known Speaker

Managing School Refusal and Academic Avoidance

Getting Kids Back in School and Engaged with Work

Mar. 12, 2024

9:00 am - 12:15 pm EST

Via ZOOM

The link will be sent a few days prior to the session

Presenter:

Aimee Kotrba, Ph.D.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Psychologists – Licensed & School LMHCs
- Social Workers Teachers Administrators
- Speech/Language Pathologists

CEU/CPD hours available. See pg. 2 for disciplines

For Staff Working with Ages:

- Preschool Elem MS HS

Level / Teaching Methods: Intermediate; Lecture

Sponsored by:

Family of Kidz - Kidz Conference Services

1400 Old Country Road, Westbury, NY 11590

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

School avoidant behavior is defined as a refusal to attend school or difficulty engaging in school for the entire day. Since the pandemic, school avoidance has increased in all age groups, and has negatively impacted kids and teens academically, socially, and emotionally. Presentations range from young children with separation anxiety to more severe instances where a student refuses to attend school entirely. The more chronic the condition (the longer the refusal behavior continues), the more challenging it becomes to return the child to a regular school schedule.

Dr. Aimee Kotrba will provide an overview of the causes, signs and subtypes of school refusal and academic avoidance. Participants will understand what tools they need to assess, plan, and develop strategies for helping children return to school and engage in schoolwork successfully. Through a combination of an expert-led presentation, interactive activities, and discussion tasks, participants will gain insight into the most effective interventions and explore best practice when dealing with school refusal/avoidance. Participants will gain the tools and knowledge necessary to help students achieve success on their return to school.

Learner Objectives: Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify the underlying causes of school refusal and academic avoidance
- Explain strategies for supporting children in overcoming obstacles to returning to school
- Discuss appropriate interventions to help children reduce academic avoidance and engage in classroom activities and homework

Agenda

9:00 Understanding School Refusal and academic avoidance
10:00 Assessing for School Refusal Subtypes and Matching Interventions
10:30 Break
10:45 Behavioral Intervention of School Refusal – How to Engage in Re-entry
11:30 Working as a Team with Parents and School Staff

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Kotrba graduated with her doctorate degree in clinical child psychology from Wayne State University and has owned Thriving Minds since 2012. She loves clinical work but has also taught graduate-level psychology at Michigan State University and has worked as a neurodevelopmental consultant/evaluator at St. Joseph Hospital for over 10 years. She is a nationally-known expert and speaker on the identification and treatment of Selective Mutism, a childhood anxiety disorder, and loves working with families to promote “brave talking”.

Dr. Kotrba has authored **Selective Mutism: An Assessment and Intervention Guide for Therapists, Educators, and Parents** and **Overcoming Selective Mutism: A Field Guide for Parents**. She created and co-directs Confident Kids Camp, a camp for children and teens with Selective Mutism that runs annually in Brighton Michigan (with offshoot camps in the metro DC area and Toronto, Canada). She also provides education to parents, school personnel, and professionals about Selective Mutism, offering informative and engaging webinars including **Unlocking the Mystery of Selective Mutism**.

DISCLOSURE INFORMATION:

Financial - Dr. Kotrba is receiving a speaker’s fee for presenting these workshops. She owns Thriving Minds and co-directs Confident Kids Camp. She receives royalties for her books.

Non-Financial – No relevant interests

CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE / CEUs

Attendance for the entire session is required for Certificates of Completion and/or CEUs (where applicable).

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Individuals: Register online with credit card or e-check www.FamilyofKidz.com

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Registration Fees:

General Registration	\$95
*Family of Kidz Employee Registration	\$80
Early Bird Registration (by 02/06/24)	
General Early Bird	\$80
*Family of Kidz Employee Early Bird	\$65

**Kidz staff registration discount is applicable only to those with at least one active case through our agency*

Refund & Cancellation Policy: A handling fee of \$35 will be deducted for all cancellations. Refund/Cancellation requests must be received by mail/e-mail no later than 10 business days prior to the session. **No cancellations or refunds will be issued if requested after 01/30/24.**

Kidz Conference Services reserves the right to cancel due to insufficient registrations or extenuating circumstances. Full refunds will be given if the conference is cancelled by KCS due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

Cancellations Due to Weather or Other Circumstances: see Announcements on our website www.FamilyofKidz.com; top of the main page.

Special accommodations: Should you require reasonable accommodations; a request must be received *no later than four weeks prior to the session* via email to: Conferences@FamilyOfKidz.com.

For Information: Tesa at 516-806-6969 x4181 or Email: Conferences@familyofkidz.com

CEU / CPD INFORMATION

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Kidz Conference Services, LLC is approved by National Association of School Psychologists to offer continuing education for school psychologists. **(3 NASP CPDs)**



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Intermediate Level
.3 ASHA CEUs

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