

First Nations Special Education CONNECTIONS



Newsletter of the First Nations Special Education Toll-free Resource Line

Vol. 7, No. 8 April 2007

Do you work with First Nations students in British Columbia?

Do you have special education questions?

If so, you are invited to contact the First Nations Special Education Resource Line! The Resource Line is a free service for BC educators and parents.

The Resource Line is a free resource to help you brainstorm approaches, guide you toward helpful resources, help you to understand assessment documents, and share the latest information on special education.

When you call, you will reach the Resource Line Coordinator, Lisa Ellis. Lisa is available to answer your questions, Monday to Thursday, 12:30 to 4:30 during the school year.

Contact the Resource Line:
Toll-free 1-877-547-1919
lisae@fnesc.ca

Connections is the newsletter of the Resource Line. Back issues of *Connections* are available from www.fnsc.ca/resource-line.htm.

The Resource Line is a collaborative project of the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the First Nations Schools Association, made possible by financial assistance from the Department of Indian Affairs.

Here's hoping that the wild, winter weather is behind all of us now (you never know with this year!), and we can look forward to sunny days. Springtime brings us to thoughts of growth. How have our students progressed this year? It is time to think about assessments. In this issue I have highlighted a couple of assessment resources available in our Resource Library. It is also time to think about how to support students as they transition to new grades and schools. Please contact me if you would like some ideas about transitioning students with special needs.

There are also many opportunities for you to grow professionally this spring. I have gathered a host of ideas for up-coming Pro-D; perhaps there is something in your community. If you know of any other upcoming workshops of interest to people working with students with special needs, please let me know about them. I will post this information on our electronic mailing list.

Lisa Ellis

Online Resources & Links

www.researchchannel.org

ResearchChannel is a media and technology organization that documents the important work of world-class researchers while bringing that work to the public through the Internet. The online video library houses more than 3,000 full-length programs. Many of these free programs are of interest to educators working with First Nations students with special needs. Here is a small sampling:

Talking and Play

www.researchchannel.org/prog/displayevent.aspx?rID=2370&fID=345

This and the following program would be extremely valuable to share with anyone working with children who are developing language. Try sharing this program with a group of parents at a Parents Club meeting, or with your Preschool staff or Teaching Assistants.

Playtime is learning time. While children are playing they're learning how the world works. You can help a child while you're playing together by engaging them in conversation about what they're doing. While having fun, the child will be encouraged to communicate their thoughts by using new words.

Talking and Books

www.researchchannel.org/prog/displayevent.aspx?rID=2369&fID=345

Looking at picture books is a good way for children to practice talking. Learning that pictures depict real things is a step in learning that words stand for something and that printed words tell a story. Looking at picture books with a child is different from reading because the goal is to get the child to talk. This activity will prompt children to understand new words and discover better ways to express themselves.

Boys and Reading

www.researchchannel.org/prog/displayevent.aspx?rID=5217&fID=345

William G. Brozo (author of "To Be A Boy, To Be A Reader") examines the importance of encouraging reading to pre-teen and teenage boys. Currently boys are fifty percent more likely than girls to be retained, and three to five times more likely to have learning and reading disability placement in schools. Although the discussion includes the tougher standards movement and "reading wars," the highlights revolve around Brozo's theme of capturing boy's interest and attention by appealing to ten positive male archetypes, an outgrowth of Jungian psychology.

Taking Charge: Stories of Success and Self-Determination

www.researchchannel.org/prog/displayevent.aspx?rID=2166&fID=345

Testimonials from youth and adults with disabilities regarding living successful, self-determined lives.

Equal Access: Universal Design of Instruction

www.researchchannel.org/prog/displayevent.aspx?rID=2169&fID=1502

College and high school students come from a variety of backgrounds and have many types of learning styles. Students may also have disabilities. In this program, instructors and tutors explain how to design accessible instruction for all students.

Brain Science as a Means of Understanding Delinquency and Substance Abuse in Youth

www.researchchannel.org/prog/displayevent.aspx?rID=4775&fID=345

Drs. Beauchaine and Tapert explore risks and results of delinquency and substance abuse in youth. Dr. Beauchaine discusses the importance of understanding the brain mechanisms associated with impulsivity, which allows us to identify at-risk children early in life. This provides opportunities for prevention of later substance abuse, school drop out, and delinquency. Dr. Tapert addresses the extent to which heavy alcohol and other drug use during the teenage years might affect brain development and cognitive performance into young adulthood.

"Check Out" the Lending Library...

The FNEESC/FNSA Special Education Lending Library has many valuable resources for your work with First Nations students with special needs. Please note that the lending library is available to FNSA member schools only. Browse through the library's special education materials online by visiting the website <http://www.fnesc.org:88>. To request materials contact Patti Yamamoto at the FNEESC office at P: 1-877-422-3672, F: 604-925-6097 or email: pattiy@fnesc.ca.

Kindergarten Numeracy Assessment Package

By School District 44 (North Vancouver), Math 44 Series

This Kindergarten Numeracy Assessment is an informal, play-based assessment designed to screen students for their understanding of early numeracy skills. It can be administered to individual students in approximately 10-15 minutes and as a screening device should be used in January-February and following intervention for needy students, again in May-June for just those students. This assessment provides teachers with information about their Kindergarten students' early numeracy skills in the areas of:

- Counting
- Matching shapes
- Matching Sets
- Conceptual vocabulary
- Problem solving (informal number operations)

Assessing Student Performance Professional Inquiry Kit

By Judith Arter

This kit includes eight activity folders of print material and a 30-minute videotape targeting all pre-K through adult-aged educators. The kit includes everything you need to explore the basic principles and applications of performance-based assessments:

- An overview of performance assessment with video segments and samples that explain their importance
- Sample assessments, including on-demand math assessments, a thinking skills project, and science and language arts portfolios
- Hands-on assessment development activities and videotaped classroom examples of teachers using assessments
- Expert advice and samples (including examples of student portfolios and exhibitions and sample rubrics) that explain a quality performance assessment

Articles Online

Common Assessment in the Native Literacy Field

www.nald.ca/library/learning/comass/comass.PDF

This resource guide is the end result of a Canadian training conference held in 2000 on developing a common assessment for Native adult learners. The guide is a collection of assessment tools and learner forms for guiding and evaluating adult learner progress. Resources listed in the table of contents include:

- The Learner's File
- Intake and Initial Assessment Forms
- Numeracy and Communications Assessments
- Other Assessments
- Assessing Learning Styles and Preferences
- Goal Setting
- Training Plans
- Ongoing Assessment, Demonstrations and Exit
- Practitioners' Forms, Helpful Hints, References and other stuff

Dates for your Calendar

Don't miss local special education related workshops and conferences! The 2006-2007 Special Professional Development issue of Connections is available online at: www.fnasa.ca/resource-line.htm.

April 4 – Vancouver. Advocacy Tips for Parents Involved with the Child Protection System. This workshop is geared towards parents who have a mental health diagnosis and their support people. Some of the topics that will be addressed include what a mental health diagnosis means for your child protection case, advocating for yourself with your social worker and financial assistance worker, how to prepare for a family case conference, what services are available, and how to keep yourself healthy through the child protection process. Presented by Kettle Friendship Society and Pivot Legal Society. FREE to attend. For more information, contact Darcie Bennett at 604-255-9700 ext. 102 or dbennett@pivotlegal.org.

April 14 – Vancouver. Psychosocial Issues in Bipolar Disorder Conference. Bipolar disorder is a serious mood disorder that affects 2-4% of all Canadians. In addition to medication, psychosocial treatment interventions are increasingly recognized as being a vital component in the comprehensive management of bipolar disorder. Registration closes April 6. View event and registration details in PDF format at www.mhanet.ca.

April 14 – Kamloops. Taking the Fear Out of ABA - Lovaas, Verbal Behaviour & More. Committed to cutting through the dogma associated with ABA, Dr. Suzanne Jacobsen will use extensive video to illustrate how the field of Applied Behaviour Analysis has developed far beyond the stereo-type of distressed children being forced to endure hours of boring and repetitive discrete trials. Participants will leave with an understanding of how ABA can make a significant contribution to autism treatment when individualized to meet the child's needs. www.actbc.ca.

April 18 - Victoria. The Collaborative Problem-Solving Approach. Presented by Dr. Ross Greene, Ph.D., bestselling author of *The Explosive Child* and *Treating Explosive Kids*. This workshop is appropriate for parents as well as professionals who work with children & youth. Explosive/noncompliant children and adolescents exhibit intense temper outbursts, oppositionality, and verbal and physical aggression. Reward and punishment approaches to treatment have been shown to be ineffective for a substantial percentage of such youth. Dr. Greene suggests their difficulties are a byproduct of lacking cognitive skills in the domains of flexibility/adaptability, frustration tolerance, and problem-solving. www.jackhirose.com/brochures/bcgreene20070418.html

April 18-19 – Richmond. The Indigenous Adult & Higher Learning Association presents: IAHLA AGM & Conference 2007 "Building Leadership for Our Future". Join us in BC's foremost annual gathering of Indigenous post-secondary and adult education institutes, as we network, share news, and chart our collective course for the future! Opportunities will be provided to discuss the latest student and program statistics, and examine a wide range of timely topics including the National Aboriginal Framework Paper, the new Post-Secondary Education Coordinators Diploma Program, and INAC Education Policy Framework. Contact toll-free 1-877-422-3672, iahla@fnesc.ca, www.fnesc.bc.ca/iahla/Attachments/AGM%202007%20Reg%20Kit%20v2.pdf

April 19 – Vancouver. The Collaborative Problem-Solving Approach. Presented by Dr. Ross Greene, Ph.D., bestselling author of *The Explosive Child* and *Treating Explosive Kids*. This workshop is appropriate for parents as well as professionals who work with children & youth. Explosive/noncompliant children and adolescents exhibit intense temper outbursts, oppositionality, and verbal and physical aggression. Reward and punishment approaches to treatment have been shown to be ineffective for a substantial percentage of such youth. Dr. Greene suggests their difficulties are a byproduct of lacking cognitive skills in the domains of flexibility/adaptability, frustration tolerance, and problem-solving. www.jackhirose.com/brochures/bcgreene20070419.html

April 19-20 - Saskatoon, SK. Where It's AT - Assistive Technology for Children & Youth Conference. Speakers: Susie Blackstien-Adler, M.Ed., B.Sc. O.T. (Bloorview Kids Rehab, Toronto) on supporting participation of students with high needs in the activities of the classroom; and Stacey Harpell, B.S., M.S., CCC-SLP (Saskatoon Health Region), on social communication. Contact Events of Distinction, t: 651-3118; f: 651-3119; eofd@sasktel.net.

No Internet Access?

In Connections, many of the resources we publicize require Internet access. If you need a print copy of an article or other website item, contact the Resource Line.

April 19-21 - Coquitlam. Encompass 2007 Conference (K-12), Celebrating Social Emotional Learning and Academic Success, with keynote speaker Alfie Kohn, featured speakers Dr. Mary Utne O'Brien, Dr. Gabor Matté, Dr. Ishu Ishiyama, Roy Henry Vickers, Terry Waterhouse, Dr. Kim Schonert-Reichl, Dr. Shelley Hymel, Dr. Martin Brokenleg and Renee Hodgkinson, and 80 to 90 related workshops. Registration available online February 2007. Information: <http://www.cta43.org/pd-encompass-07.htm> or contact Gerry Lush, 604-936-9971, pd43@bctf.ca

April 19-21 - Coquitlam. MYABC - Teaching Hearts, Minds & Bodies, speaks to the joys and challenges of teaching the whole child, while addressing the many curricular changes that educators face in these fast paced times. Registration and information www.myabc.bc.ca/connections/ Contact: Bill McGovern, bmcgovern@sd43.bc.ca

April 20 - Vancouver. Putting Narrative Ideas into Practice with Children. Creative innovative ways to assist children who may experience distraction, fear, temper, defiance. Explore issues relevant to addressing children's problems in the therapeutic relationship. For more information check www.thenarrativeproject.ca or phone Ninetta Tavano at 604-916-5115 or 780-428-4044.

April 20-21 - Terrace. Positive Behaviour Support at Home with Families of Children with ASD & Related Disabilities. Dr. Joseph M. Lucyshyn has an international reputation for a collaborative, family-centred approach to designing Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) plans for children with autism and other developmental disabilities. This workshop will introduce participants to a PBS approach to supporting families of children with autism so they can enjoy family life. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm.

April 20-21 - Richmond. FNSA Annual General Meeting & Conference. This annual event is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the First Nations schools of British Columbia and to network, learn and collaborate. The FNSA is offering a wider range workshops this year than ever before, with an emphasis on "classroom-proven" strategies that are successfully increasing student achievement. The conference has something for everyone involved in teaching and administering K4 through Grade 12, plus adult education and post-secondary. The plenary features an update on school measures and data, as well as jurisdiction. Contact toll-free 1.877.422.3672, fnsa@fnesc.ca www.fnsa.ca, www.fnsa.ca/currentevents.htm

April 21 - Castlegar. An Introduction to Autism Treatment - A Case Management Survival Guide for Parents & Community Professionals. Dr. Jill Calder, Clinical Director of Rehabilitation Services, Thompson Cariboo, provides important insights on how parents can develop their skills as knowledgeable team leaders for their child's intervention program - a case management approach. Her focus is on how parents can learn to manage their child's treatment. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm.

April 21 - Kelowna. Encouraging Parent - Child Interaction - Techniques for Parents & Professionals. Research into effective autism treatment has demonstrated that children who learn how to enjoy interacting with their parents and peers do better in the long-term than those whose programs are dependent on rote learning. Dr. Gerard Kysela's approach focuses on teaching parents and primary care givers the skills they need to engage the child with autism in play. Illustrated with video examples. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm.

April 27-28 - Vancouver. Rethinking Risk - McCreary Youth Foundation Annual Conference on Youth. This conference for youth workers, academics, and young people will explore the theme "Rethinking Risk" and will challenge conference participants on concepts of risk and to consider both the positive and negative aspects of the risky and risk-taking behaviours of adolescents. The conference presentations will feature topics such as assessment, risk from a youth's perspective, building resiliency, high risk/vulnerability, and fostering positive youth development. To register, visit www.myfoundation.ca or contact 604-299-1609 or info@myfoundation.ca.

April 28 - Vancouver. The Art of Advocacy for Parents of Children with Special Needs. Many parents are confused and frustrated by the complexities of systems they must navigate to find help for their child. Clair Schuman, Executive Director of Autism Community Training, offers parents an overview of how to develop the skills they need to navigate successfully. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm.

April 30 - May 1 - Kamloops. FASD conference "Strategies for Positive Outcomes". Speakers include Diane Malbin, Jan Lutke and many more. This regional conference will explore ways to educate others about FASD, with an emphasis on providing strategies for positive outcomes. Limited number of parent bursaries available. Contact Darlene Morris at Insight Support Services, #5-510 Lorne Street Kamloops, BC V2C 6M1, or call 851-0005.

April 30 - May 2 - Vancouver. HIPPY Conference. For details and information please contact Susanne Nahm at (604) 291-5084 or email snahm@sfu.ca

May 5 - Langley. Living with Children with Disabilities. Presented by Brenda Knight, Clinical Counselor. The workshop will focus on emotional issues related to raising a child with a disability, impact on the family and relationships and relationships and your physical and emotional health, as well as meeting the needs of caregivers and how professionals can help you on your journey. Contact: Karen Came, Phone (604)-534-1155 ext. 126, Email: kcame@langleycdc.com

May 7 - Vancouver. First National Child & Youth Mental Health Day Conference. The FORCE Society for Kid's Mental Health and Parents for Children's Mental Health present the First National Child and Youth Mental Health Day Conference featuring keynote speaker Michael Kirby, former senator and co-author of Out of the Shadows at Last, the federal report on 'Transforming Mental Health, Mental Illness, and Addiction Services in Canada.' To register, visit www.bckidsmentalhealth.org.

May 9-11 - Vancouver. Working with Aggressive & Violent Children & Youth. Presented by Dr. Gordon Neufeld, Ph.D., bestselling author of Hold On to Your Kids. In this seminar, aggression's deep developmental roots will be exposed and the reasons why conventional approaches to the problem are so ineffective will be revealed. Dr. Neufeld will provide guidelines and strategies for addressing the roots of the aggression problem that will be applicable across ages and venues. www.jackhirose.com/brochures/bcneufeld20070509.html