

First Nations Special Education CONNECTIONS



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

Vol. 7, No. 9 May 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.fnsa.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.

I hope you enjoyed the FNSA conference as much as I did! It was great matching faces to names and voices from the Resource Line, and reconnecting with educators from around the province. I look forward to seeing some of you at the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder training June 10-12 in Vancouver with Diane Malbin from FASCETS; check out the information in the Mark Your Calendars section of this newsletter. Enjoy your spring!

Lisa Ellis

Online Resources & Links



www.anxietybc.com/parent/index.html

What a fantastic website! AnxietyBC's parent website offers lots of excellent information for parents (and caregivers and educators) of children and youth with anxiety. The site is easily navigated, and includes video interviews with professionals explaining the signs and symptoms of different anxiety disorders as well as effective management strategies. The site gives up-to-date information on Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Social Anxiety Disorder, Panic Disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Separation Anxiety Disorder, Specific Phobias, and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

Check out the Complete Home Tool Kit. There is text-based scientific information, including downloadable fact sheets and activity forms. Topics include:

- Talking to Your Child or Teen about Anxiety
- Helping Your Child Face Fears: Exposure
- Healthy Thinking for Younger Children
- Realistic Thinking for Teens
- How to do Calm Breathing
- How to Do Progressive Muscle Relaxation
- How to Address Excessive Reassurance Seeking
- Helping Your Anxious Child Make Friends
- What to do When Your Child Insists on Sleeping in Your Bed with You
- Helping Your Child Overcome Perfectionism
- And much more!

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.

FASCETS: Providing an Alternative Paradigm for Understanding Behaviors
www.fascets.org

The goal of FASCETS (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Consultation, Education and Training Services) is to contribute to the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders by increasing understanding of FASD as a brain-based physical disability, thereby preventing secondary defensive behaviors and improving outcomes. Sections on the website include:

- Conceptual Framework
- Understanding FASD (Primary Characteristics, Common Strengths, Preventable Secondary Characteristics)
- Articles
- Bibliography
- Resources
- Professional and Personal Stories

What Are Learning Disabilities? A Flash Movie for Kids

www.ldao.ca/ (Movie for Kids about LDs)

This brief, animated movie for children with Learning Disabilities describes different types of Learning Disabilities and how they affect learning. The program explains how children can use different ways of sensing and processing to learn new information.

Articles Online

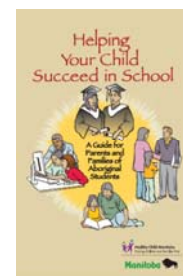
Helping Your Child Succeed in School: A Guide for Parents and Families of Aboriginal Students

Published by Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/parents/ab_guide/ab_guide.pdf

This guide is intended for parents and families of Aboriginal students. It includes suggestions families can draw upon to participate in and support their child's learning in school and at home. Strategies are separated by grade level, from Kindergarten to grade twelve. Topics include:

- How Can My Involvement Benefit My Child?
- How Can I Help My Child's Learning?
- Ideas for Parents and Families of Students in Early Years
- Ideas for Parents and Families of Students in Middle School Years
- Ideas for Parents and Families of Students in High School
- School Partnerships in My Child's Learning
- What Questions Can I Ask about My Child's Learning?
- What Should I Do if an Issue Arises?



Instructional Tips: Supporting the Educational Needs of Students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

By Susan Marie Ryan

The full text of this article can be downloaded from:

<http://escholarship.bc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1273&context=education/teclus>

This article highlights instructional tips that teachers say are helpful when teaching students with FASD:

- Think Person/Child First
- Build a Relationship with the Student's Family
- Develop Partnerships and Build Collaboration Between Families, Schools, and Community Agencies, and Implement Wrap-Around Services
- Develop Social Skills
- Provide a Structured Environment
- Use Repetition and Consistency
- Modify the Classroom Environment and Modify the Curriculum
- Make a Referral to Special Education and to an FAS Diagnostic Clinic

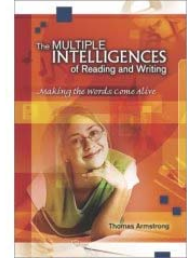
Students with FASD benefit from teachers who are prepared to support their social, behavioral, and academic learning needs. Teachers can successfully support the needs of students with FASD through: (1) gathering information on the student's strengths, interests, and needs; (2) implementing the recommended practices noted above and described in detail in the article; and (3) gathering information (i.e., collecting data) on how the student responds to the interventions implemented.

"Check Out" the Lending Library...

The FNEsc/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 FNEsc office at P: 1-877-422-3672, F: 604-925-6097 or email: pattiy@fnesc.ca.

The Multiple Intelligences of Reading and Writing: Making the Words Come Alive Books in Action Video Series

Teaching literacy through multiple intelligence areas will help all the students in your school, but especially the students with special learning needs. In this 15-minute must-see video, teachers learn how to nurture their students' literacy skills through activities that tap several intelligence areas, including the bodily kinesthetic, spatial, intrapersonal, and natural intelligences.



FNEsc has developed a Facilitator's Discussion Guide to facilitate preparing, viewing and presenting this video, including discussion questions and activity ideas. The guide will be included with the video when you order this resource. Incorporating a playful multiple intelligence approach in your next professional development session is sure to have everyone engaged!

One-Minute Academic Functional Assessment and Interventions: "Can't" Do It . . . or "Won't" Do It?

By Joseph Witt & Ray Beck



Here's a great resource to help you quickly determine what conditions influence a student's performance in school. One-Minute Academic Functional Assessment and Interventions offers a precise and easy technique allowing you to quickly identify the factors affecting individual student performance. By systematically assessing whether a student "can't" or "won't" do the work, you can determine your course of action and choose the appropriate intervention. Dozens of strategies are included to meet the many challenging situations you might encounter. Includes reproducibles, worksheets, and checklists.

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.fnsc.ca/resource-line.htm.

May 5 – Langley. Living with Children with Disabilities. Presented by Brenda Knight, Clinical Counsellor. The workshop will focus on emotional issues related to raising a child with a disability, impact on the family 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 9-10 – Abbotsford. MCFD and the Foster Parents Association present Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Symposium with Dr. Sterling Clarren, Dr. Sandra Clarren, Julie Gelo and Dr. Edward P. Riley. Contact Kula Zervos (604) 854-3309 or kulzer1@telus.net.

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

May 10-11 – Richmond. Promoting Safe, Cohesive Communities for Children and Youth. A Conference Sponsored by the Institute for Safe Schools and Communities of BC and The British Columbia Youth Police Network. This conference will present an exciting opportunity for educators, police, service providers, community members and government representatives to come together to learn, share, network and focus on best practices. Participants will focus on enhancing social cohesion for children and youth through developing communities characterized by shared values, shared benefits and opportunities, and shared responsibility to overcome challenges. www.iss-bc.ca/sites/www.bccssc.ca/files/ISS-Conference-Flyer-Promoting-Safe-Communities.pdf

May 10–12 – Victoria. Hands-On Training in Verbal Behaviour for Therapists. Presented by Suzanne Jacobsen, Ed.D., BCBA & Anna Matchneva, BCABA. This workshop is designed to provide special education assistants, therapists and parents who serve as their child's primary therapist with guided practice in implementing Verbal Behaviour methodology - an approach to Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA). You must have a background in ABA & understand the terminology of Verbal Behaviour to register for this workshop. Be prepared to roll up your sleeves and practice. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/2007/VBehaviour_May2007.htm

May 11 - Whistler. 2nd Annual Provincial Intermediate Teachers' Association (PITA) Whistler workshops- Supporting Struggling Students in the Grey Area. Featuring Dawn Reithaug and Mary Moody. For online registration and information visit www.pita.bc.ca Contact Luisa Watson, PITA executive, at whistler-registrar@pita.ca

May 12 - Campbell River. 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.

May 12 – Surrey. Your Child's Self Esteem. A workshop for parents of children from preschool age to later teens with hearing loss. Co-sponsored by BC Family Hearing Centre and CHHA-BC Parents' Branch. Call (604) 584-2827, toll free 1-877-584-2827, or email cchow@bcfamilyhearing.com.

May 14-15 – Vancouver. Making Sense of Adolescence. Presented by Dr. Gordon Neufeld, Ph.D., bestselling author of Hold On to Your Kids. This seminar is designed for those who desire INSIGHT & UNDERSTANDING, not just advice and prescriptions. Dr. Neufeld will not only help us appreciate what we are up against but make practical suggestions for how we can win back our adolescents and restore our rightful place in their lives. www.jackhirose.com/brochures/bcneufeld20070514.html.

May 16 – Abbotsford. Dr. Brenda McCreight, Ph. D. R.S.W. will be presenting on **Interventions for Families and Children Affected by FASD.** Hosted by MCFD and Upper Fraser Valley Foster Parents. For more information: Kula Zervos Phone:604-854-3309, E-mail: Kulzer1@telus.net.

May 17 - Victoria. Healthy Living for People with a Developmental Disability. A conference designed for families and people working with people with a developmental disability. For additional information call: Mary Ann Snowden, Garth Homer Society (250) 475-2270; Karen VanRheenen, Kardel Consulting (250) 382-5959 Ext 224.

May 18-19 – Vancouver. Social Success and Autism Spectrum Disorders: Survival™, Loss & Learning, Friendship, and Bullying. Presented by Carol Gray. Students with autism spectrum disorders frequently demonstrate a “thrive” versus “struggle to survive” phenomenon as they proceed from one grade to the next. Using plenty of case examples, activities, and demonstration, this two day workshop explores in detail what may account for this sharp contrast in student performance – along with the philosophy, practices, and strategies that can help to ensure student success. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/2007/SocialSuccess_CarolGray.htm

May 26 – Smithers. Sensory Processing in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder - Reaching a Common Understanding, with Mary-Ann Fulks, M.Sc., O.T.(C). Most parents and professionals are aware that many children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) have problems processing information from their sensory systems. They may be hyper-sensitive to sound, taste, touch, light, smell or apparently oblivious to them. Come to this full day workshop to learn how sensory processing is critical to our perception of the world and the ways in which sensory dysfunction can be problematic. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/2007/Sensory_Fulks.htm

June 2 – Victoria. 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. With a decade of experience parenting her own son with autism, Dr. Calder builds on her expertise as a respected rehabilitative medicine specialist and combines this with her practical grasp of autism treatment. Her focus is on how parents can learn to manage their child's treatment. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm.

June 5 – Vancouver. A Neurodevelopmental Perspective on Differences in Learning. Presented by Dr. Mel Levine, M.D. Brain function is key to learning, yet children who have problems learning are often labeled lazy (or worse). This workshop will focus on those brain processes and what can be done to improve outcomes. www.jackhirose.com/brochures/bclevine20070605.html

June 10-12 - Vancouver. FNSA presents Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: Into Action, a three-day intensive training facilitated by Diane Malbin from FASCETS, Inc. The goal of this training is to develop specific, concrete techniques for working with people with FASD and to develop a plan for their implementation. The agenda provides: 1) a foundation for understanding neurobehavioral disorders, 2) a framework for developing effective techniques, and 3) support for implementation of these techniques in different settings. Contact Barb O'Neill at the FNEsc/FNSA office at (604) 925-6087, toll-free at 1-877-422-3672, or email s_sec@fnesc.ca.

June 14-16 – Prince George. 2007 BCACL Conference and AGM, “Aiming High and Leading the Way.” The BC Association for Community Living invites you to join us for our 52nd Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting - “Aiming High and Leading the Way.” This year's theme celebrates the determination of our community to achieve our goals of ensuring justice, rights and opportunities in all areas of people's lives. Co-hosted by AiMHi -the Prince George Association for Community Living. www.bcacl.org/documents/2007_conf_Final_Program.pdf