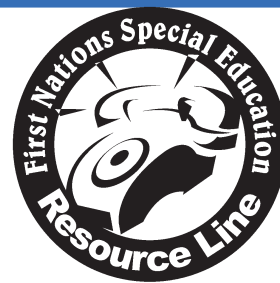


First Nations Special Education CONNECTIONS



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

Sept 2006

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 Toll-free Resource Line! The Resource Line is a free service for BC educators, education administrators and parents.

The Resource Line is here 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 from Monday to Thursday, 12:30 to 4:30 pm 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 provided by the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the First Nations Schools Association, and it is made possible by financial assistance from the Department of Indian Affairs.

2006 / 2007 Professional Development Opportunities

The First Nations Special Education Resource Line is pleased to present this annual special edition of the *Connections* newsletter that shares ideas for building your special education knowledge and skills during the school year.

September 7-8 - Maple Ridge. 1st Fraser Regional Conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. 'From the Sharing Circle: A Community's Response to FASD'. Promising Practices in Prevention, Diagnosis and Intervention. Sponsored by the Katzie First Nation, Ridge Meadows Child Development Centre and The Asante Centre for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, this conference will provide participants with current research and best practices information in order to build capacity within communities to support families and others caring for children, youth and adults with FASD. For more information contact: The Asante Centre for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Tel: 604-467-7101, Email: info@asantecentre.org. To register online: www.asantecentre.org/upcoming_workshops

September 8 - Vancouver. Why is Early Identification of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder Important? Dr. Wendy Stone, an internationally respected autism specialist, will speak on the importance of community professionals recognizing possible indicators of ASD in young children and rapidly referring them for a multi-disciplinary diagnosis. Dr. Stone will also speak to the mounting evidence that early diagnosis provides greater opportunities for children to benefit fully from intensive autism-specific intervention. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

September 11-15 - Qualicum Bay. Mostly Salish Consulting Presents: Introduction to Art and Expressive Arts Therapies. This week is an introduction to the art therapy process designed for people who are currently working in helping roles and are looking for additional tools. For more information: 250-757-9848, www.mostlysalish.com.

September 15 - Castlegar. Unraveling the Mystery of Sensory Processing Difficulties - What does it mean for my child with ASD? What is sensory processing and why is it important? What does sensory dysfunction look like? How does it feel? What can be done to help your child? Mary-Ann Fulks is an occupational therapist with almost 20 years experience in paediatric practice. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

September 22-23 - Vancouver. How to use the ABLLS as an Assessment and IEP Development Tool with Suzanne Jacobsen, ABA Learning Centre - at the Segal School of Business, SFU. The Assessment of Language and Learning Skills (The ABLLS) is an assessment tool, curriculum guide, and skills-tracking system used to guide the instruction of language and critical learner skills for children with autism or other developmental disabilities. This workshop uses the Verbal Behaviour (VB) approach to Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA). Prior attendance at workshops focused on the VB approach and/or experience in ABA techniques is essential to obtain maximum benefit. Registration form available at www.actbc.ca/act_wkshop_pdfs/ABLBS_Sep06.pdf.

September 23 - Mackenzie. 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.

September 25 - Online (University of Victoria). Advising and Counselling the Adult. Principles and practices associated with counselling adults. Experiential learning and practical application of counselling theories are emphasized. For further information: Hayley Hewson (250) 721-8944; E-mail: cace@uvcs.uvic.ca, www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/cace/

September 27 - Six-Weeks Online (University of Victoria). Assessment for Learning. Find out how to collect and evaluate relevant evidence in learning. Gain confidence in designing and using tools such as journalling, portfolios, conferencing. For further information: Hayley Hewson (250) 721-8944; E-mail: cace@uvcs.uvic.ca, www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/cace/

September 27-28 - Vancouver. Aboriginal Supported Child Development Symposium. For further information, contact: Tel: 250-338-4288 ext 237 Toll-free 1-866-338-4881.

September 29 - Richmond. Canadian Hard of Hearing Association-BC Conference with special sessions for young adults (16+) Presenters include Dr. Jonathan Daurant, counsellor Larry Green, actress Gael Hannon, audiologist Grace Shyng and many more. www.chha-bc.org, or 1-866-888-2442

September 30 - Kelowna. Case Management for Autism - A Survival Guide for Parents, a Practice Guideline for 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.

September 30 - Kamloops. The Art of Advocacy - A Parent's Guide to Developing Pro-active Skills. Many parents are confused and frustrated by the complexities of systems they must navigate to find help for their child. With over a decade of experience as an advocate for parents with children with special needs, 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.

October 5-6 - Lynwood, WA. 2006 Northwest Regional FASD Conference (Washington, Alaska, Oregon, British Columbia). Sponsored by the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Washington State. For more information contact: (260) 940-2832 or view www.nofaswa.org/

October 6 - Vancouver. Is Autism an Extreme Form of the Male Brain? The Fetal Androgen Theory of Autism - Focus on Research. Hear Professor Simon Baron-Cohen, internationally renowned autism researcher, speak on his latest book, The Essential Difference - Male and Females Brains and the Truth about Autism. Dr Baron-Cohen has brought together his research interests in both autism and the differences between the development of male and female brains to present a fascinating and controversial analysis. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm.

October 10-13 - Camp Howdy, Port Moody. Youth Conference - 10th Annual Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges Youth Leadership and Skill Building Conference. The McCreary Centre Society's annual B4 Conference. For more information, visit www.mcs.bc.ca/ya_b4.htm or call 604-291-1996.

October 13- 14 - Victoria. BC Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists annual conference. The topic of "supporting language development within culturally diverse groups with a focus on First Nations children" is being addressed on day 2 of the conference. Additional program and registration information: www.bcaslpa.bc.ca/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=45&MMN_position=59:59

October 13-14 - Harrison Hot Springs. 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.

October 14 - Williams Lake. The Art of Advocacy - A Parent's Guide to Developing Pro-active Skills. Many parents are confused and frustrated by the complexities of systems they must navigate to find help for their child. With over a decade of experience as an advocate for parents with children with special needs, 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.

October 14 - Vancouver. Sensory Assessments presented by Henry OT Services, sponsored by the BC Council for Exceptional Children. This workshop on sensory assessments includes the Sensory Processing Measure (SPM) designed to use with elementary school students to examine a child's functioning in the school and home environments. The SPM items cover all major areas of sensory processing and social participation, as well as the sensory and motor domains of vision, hearing, taste and smell, touch, balance, and body position sense. For more information, contact Junie Brayley at e-mail: junie_brayley@yorkhouse.ca.

October 19 - 20 - Winnipeg, Manitoba. 6th National Aboriginal FASD Conference, Promising Intervention Strategies for Parents, Teachers & Caregivers of Children & Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Conference information: W. Zarchikoff & Associates, Toll free 1888-683-7711 or 604-530-3840 or Fax: 604-530-3841 Email: wzarchikoff@msn.com.

October 19-21 - Victoria. Introduction to Verbal Behaviour - Teaching Communication Skills to Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities with Vincent J. Carbone. At the Laurel Point Inn. Dr. Carbone will describe the behavioural approach to teaching communication skills to children with autism and other developmental disabilities. This is an important introduction for those looking for a fresh and positive approach to ABA that focuses on motivating the child to learn. Please note: ACT is planning a "Hands-on Training in VB for Therapists" in Victoria in the late fall of 2006 - the Intro workshop will be a pre-requisite for this course as well as for the ABLLS workshop which we are planning for Victoria. Registration form at www.actbc.ca/act_wkshop_pdfs/Intro_VB__Victoria_Oct21_06.pdf.

October 20-21 - Burnaby. Canadian Hard of Hearing Association BC Parents' Branch 2006 Family Weekend. www.chhaparents.bc.ca

October 20 - New Westminster. Working with Families of Children with Disabilities: How School Counsellors Can Be Helpful - This workshop will provide school counsellors with knowledge and resources to help them provide meaningful emotional and practical support to parents and siblings of children with disabilities. It will explore the potential impact of parental grief on the school experience as well as how siblings' grief can affect their school success and their overall well-being. Special attention will be given to discuss and explain the unique stresses of siblings and on counselling and other school-based interventions to support them. For School counsellors and other school-based professionals working directly with parents and siblings of children with disabilities. Registration \$75 + GST (including lunch). For more information, contact Sharon McInnes at New Connections s.mcinnis@shaw.ca. Web site: www.newconnections.ca.

October 20 - Vancouver. Weaving the Tapestry: Take 2. Annual ESL PSA Conference at Gladstone Secondary School. Celebrate new ways to weave together learning experiences for students, tried and true strategies that support learning in diverse classrooms, and ways to renew and strengthen professional connections. For more information: www.bctf.ca/eslpsa.

October 20 - Vancouver. Diverse Learners: A look at Differentiation with Dr. Marcia Imbeau. Presented by the Association for Educators of Gifted, Talented, and Creative Children of BC presents Gifted Ed '06. Middle school educators are encouraged to take advantage of the early bird team discounts. At the Holiday Inn Vancouver Centre, West Broadway. For more information, contact Linnea Lanstrom at llanstrom@hotmail.com.

October 20 - Vancouver. Inclusionary Practices: Building a Community of Learners in our Classrooms with Vianne Timmons, PhD, University of PEI. Presented by the Learning Assistance Teachers' Association Conference. This workshop will present the justification for inclusion, the challenges educators face and strategies that enhance the possibility of success. Inclusive practice across they life span will be explored with particular emphasis placed on strategies that may be considered in different grades. Leadership is a critical area to consider when promoting inclusive practice. Leadership and management issues will be highlighted and discussed throughout the day. The role of the classroom teacher, LAT/Resource Teacher and Teacher Assistant will also be discussed. Inclusive practice impacts on many children and teaching staff and the changing roles will be highlighted. At the Plaza 500 Hotel. For more information, contact Alan Peterson at lataconference@hotmail.com. Register online at: psas.bctf.ca/LATA/conference/events.htm.

October 20 - Langley. Differentiated Learning: One Size Doesn't Fit All. Author and Educator Gayle Gregory shares a framework and model to provide a variety of learning and assessment strategies. Teachers can then differentiate instruction and assessment to enable all learners to reach standards in a safe, nurturing environment. Register now at www.thinklangley.com #1011-06

October 20-22 - Richmond. Family Focus 2006 - The Voyage Together - 11th provincial conference presented by and for families who have children of all ages who require extra supports. Presented by the Family Focus Society and the Richmond Society of Community Living. A variety of workshops for families, self-advocates and professionals, as well as a Children and Youth Program sponsored by Variety - The Children's Charity. At the Richmond Airport Conference Resort. For more information, see www.familyfocusconference.com, e-mail: info@familyfocusconference.com.

October 21 - Vancouver. 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.

October 28 - Prince George. Unraveling the Mystery of Sensory Processing Difficulties - What does it mean for my child with ASD? What is sensory processing and why is it important? What does sensory dysfunction look like? How does it feel? What can be done to help your child? Mary-Ann Fulks is an occupational therapist with almost 20 years experience in pediatric practice. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

November 2-3 - Richmond. Making Connections "Systems for Success" is the 9th annual conference focusing on a systemic, positive, school-wide approach to creating a safe and caring school culture. The conference will feature evidence-based approaches and practices that schools and districts have been using to develop and implement plans for enhancing student achievement and social responsibility. Sponsored by BC CASE (Council of Administrators of Special Education). Keynote Speaker, Justin Trudeau. Presenters include: George Sugai (pre-conference Nov 1), Lucille Eber, Don Kincaid, David Smith, Rob Horner, Joe Lucyshun, Janice Coomer, Craig Gillis, Jody Langlois. For more information, contact Kathy Champion at kchampion@richmond.sd38.bc.ca or see the Institute for Safe Schools www.iss-bc.ca.

November 4 - Kamloops. Taking the Fear out of ABA - Lovaas, Verbal Behaviour and 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 long 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/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm.

November 10 - Vancouver. Organizing Strategies to Prepare for Homework and the Real World. The vast majority of students with social cognitive deficits have immense difficulty developing organizational skills to manage the increasingly complex expectations of life in upper elementary, middle, high school and into their adult years. In this workshop we will explore two different types of organizational skills: static and dynamic. The bulk of strategies presented will be focused on literate school-aged children and young adults, but the information is also helpful for those living and working with younger children. Teachers, SLPs, clinical and educational psychologists, administrators, OTs, PTs, TA and family members are all welcome. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

November 16-18 - Richmond. Western Canadian Conference on Addictions & Mental Health. Register by fax 604-270-4684 or email occhealth@infoserve.net.

November 17-18 - 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.

November 18 - Victoria. The Art of Advocacy - A Parent's Guide to Developing Pro-active Skills. Many parents are confused and frustrated by the complexities of systems they must navigate to find help for their child. With over a decade of experience as an advocate for parents with children with special needs, 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.

November 18 - Abbotsford. Unraveling the Mystery of Sensory Processing Difficulties - What does it mean for my child with ASD? What is sensory processing and why is it important? What does sensory dysfunction look like? How does it feel? What can be done to help your child? Mary-Ann Fulks is an occupational therapist with almost 20 years experience in pediatric practice. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

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November 18-19 - Coquitlam. "Acceleration... Is More Than Grade Skipping" presented by the Lower Mainland Gifted Contacts. Presenter Dr. Miraca Gross (University of New South Wales), is a leading authority on models for acceleration. She will present a compelling look at how acceleration can be done and how to know who would benefit from acceleration. Registration for both days: \$175, For Friday only: \$125, For Saturday only \$75. For more information, see www.lowermainlandgifted.ca.

December 2 - Chemanius. Taking the Fear out of ABA - Lovaas, Verbal Behaviour and 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 long 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/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

2007

January 12-13 - Vancouver. 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.

January 13 - Kelowna. Unraveling the Mystery of Sensory Processing Difficulties - What does it mean for my child with ASD? What is sensory processing and why is it important? What does sensory dysfunction look like? How does it feel? What can be done to help your child? Mary-Ann Fulks is an occupational therapist with almost 20 years experience in pediatrics practice. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

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January 20 - Campbell River. 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.

January 25-26 - Vancouver. 20th Annual Challenge & Change Conference, Presented by the Alternate Educators of BC PSA. At the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre. For more information, see psas.bctf.ca/BCAEA/conference.html.

February 3 - Campbell River. The Art of Advocacy - A Parent's Guide to Developing Pro-active Skills. Many parents are confused and frustrated by the complexities of systems they must navigate to find help for their child. With over a decade of experience as an advocate for parents with children with special needs, 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.

February 10 - Nanaimo. Unraveling the Mystery of Sensory Processing Difficulties - What does it mean for my child with ASD? What is sensory processing and why is it important? What does sensory dysfunction look like? How does it feel? What can be done to help your child? Mary-Ann Fulks is an occupational therapist with almost 20 years experience in pediatric practice. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

February 17-18 - Vancouver. Working From the Heart - Presented by the BC School Counsellors' Association - Target audience: counsellors, special educators, private clinicians, psychologists, administrators and classroom teachers. Register online at: psas.bctf.ca/BCSCA/Conference.htm.

March 7 - 10 - Victoria. The 1st International Conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Research, Policy and Practice Around the World. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) has a profound impact on all aspects of society and individuals around the world. In order to assist women of childbearing years, people living with FASD, service systems, and governments as they strive to address this urgent issue, this international conference will provide a forum to discuss and examine current research. Topics will include substance use in pregnancy, biomedical, clinical and diagnostic research, and the evaluation of intervention and prevention activities. The conference will share lessons learned in a way that will foster improved policy and practice, promote healthy communities and social inclusion, and local, national and international collaboration on FASD. The voices of affected children, youth and adults will be heard throughout the event. The conference goal is to provide participants with the means to use research and practice to inform and shape policy. The conference will be held at The Fairmont Empress Hotel in Victoria, BC. For more information please visit www.interprofessional.ubc.ca or email ipad@interchange.ubc.ca or call (604) 822-7524.

March 15-16 - Vancouver. 32nd annual Crosscurrents Conference presented by the Special Education Association of BC. At the Westin Bayshore, featuring a line-up of top quality presenters and a wide range of sessions relevant to teachers working with students who have special learning needs. For more information, see www.bctf.ca/sea or contact Priscilla Fortier, priscillaf@shaw.ca.