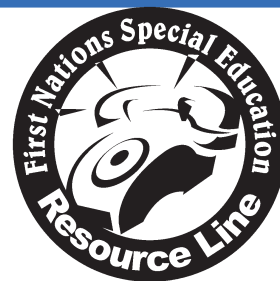


First Nations Special Education CONNECTIONS



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

Jan 2008

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.

Professional Development Opportunities Revised and Updated for January - June 2008

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

January 12, Nanaimo. Transitioning from High School to Work - Preparing Students with Autism for Adulthood. The workshop will define the roles and responsibilities for individuals supporting students as they mature, including parents, and will provide participants with information and strategies which help promote meaningful participation for students with ASD in the work world. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

January 14, Victoria. A Cracked Foundation: What Parents, Teachers and Therapists are Missing in Child Development. Take one or both of the two workshops offered this day by Cris Rowan, occupational therapist and developer of the Zone'in and Move'in programs. Zone'in and Learn! Attention - The Integral Key - Sensory Integration Tools and Techniques. Move'in to Print! The Foundation for Literacy - Fine Motor Assessment and Intervention. www.zonein.ca/workshops.php

January 18, Terrace. Assessment and Literacy Strategies for "Grey Area" Students. Do you have students that don't really qualify as "special needs" but who seem to require additional support and time? How can we keep these "grey area" learners from falling through the cracks? Registration forms are at www.fnsc.ca/specialed.htm#2. Questions? Contact Kelly Kitchen or Barb O'Neill at 1-877-422-3672

January 18, Smithers. Language Development Strategies for the Classroom. This workshop will discuss how oral language develops and changes throughout the school-age years. This workshop will help teachers foster their students' language development for the purposes of social interaction, reading and writing and problem solving. Registration forms are at www.fnsc.ca/specialed.htm#2. Questions? Contact Kelly Kitchen or Barb O'Neill at 1-877-422-3672

January 19, Surrey. 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. Come to this full day workshop for an introduction to all the senses and learn how you personally process sensory information. Learn about and discuss ways to help your child. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/2007/Sensory_Fulks.htm

January 24-25, Vancouver. The BC Alternate Education Association 21st Annual Challenge & Change Conference. Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre. For more information, contact: DJ Pauls, Conference co-coordinator at dj_pauls@sd34.bc.ca or at school at 604-859-7820, ext. 234.

January 25, Burns Lake. Strategies and Materials for Adult Literacy. This workshop will explore informal assessments, documenting abilities, materials, strategies and learning plans for adult learners. Registration forms are at www.fnsa.ca/specialed.htm#2. Questions? Contact Kelly Kitchen or Barb O'Neill at 1-877-422-3672

January 26, Vancouver. Including Students with Disabilities in Regular Classrooms. Presented by Pat Mirenda. This workshop will provide an overview of four components needed for successful educational inclusion of students with autism and other developmental disabilities: presuming competence; building supportive classrooms communities; collaborative teaming; and providing access to the general education curriculum. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

January 30, Vancouver. 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. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

January 31-February 2, Vancouver. The Early Years Conference 2008: Valuing All Children. All children have the right to opportunities for realizing their full potential. Some children by nature of individual, family, or community circumstances are more vulnerable and will need extra support in achieving this. Special attention will be given to children in care and children with disabilities. For further information visit www.interprofessional.ubc.ca or ipad@interchange.ubc.ca or 604-822-7542

February 4, Creston. Individual Education Plans, a Framework for Success. This session will look at the research behind collaborative team planning, and how the IEP is the cornerstone for success for many students. This workshop will discuss teacher assessment, how to document baseline abilities and student growth, and how to design realistic and achievable goals providing a bright future for our students. Registration forms are at www.fnsa.ca/specialed.htm#2. Questions? Contact Kelly Kitchen or Barb O'Neill at 1-877-422-3672

February 15, Victoria. The Saanich Teachers' Association presents "Brain Power Matters 2008." Pam Robbins will present brain-based learning strategies for K-12 classrooms. Pam has worked with and has published with the ASCD, the Florida Leadership Academy and the National Staff Development Council. Register online at http://www.claremont-school.ca/lrc/Brain_Power_Matters.htm or contact Sally Glen at 250-479-1124.

February 16, Abbotsford. "Our Students, Our Community, Our Future" Shared Learning Conference. Workshops include: A Student's Brain: How it Works; Parents as Partners: Rights, Roles and Responsibilities; Layered Curriculum: For Teachers with more than One Student in their Classroom; Busting the Myths of Giftedness: Understanding your Gifted Learner and How to Help Her/Him. Contact Jolene Davies at (604) 851-4880. www.sd34.bc.ca/upload/Shared%20Learning%202007_NO%20SUP.pdf

February 16, Surrey. 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. 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 22, Kamloops. Assessment and Literacy Strategies for "Grey Area" Students. Do you have students that don't really qualify as "special needs" but who seem to require additional support and time? How can we keep these "grey area" learners from falling through the cracks? Registration forms are at www.fnsa.ca/specialed.htm#2. Questions? Contact Kelly Kitchen or Barb O'Neill at 1-877-422-3672

February 22, Kelowna. "Teaching to Diversity: Universal Design for Learning" with Dr. Beth Sparks, Brigitte Sebulsky, and Wally Asher. The latest brain research confirms what experienced teachers have always known: No two children are alike and no two children learn in the identical way. For more information contact Alan Peterson at lataconference@hotmail.com .

February 22-23, Kelowna. An Introduction to the Verbal Behavior Approach to Applied Behavior Analysis. Dr. Suzanne Jacobsen and Richard Stock will describe the behavioral approach to teaching communication skills to children with autism or other developmental disabilities. The presenter will demonstrate errorless teaching, specific quick-transfer (prompting and fading) procedures, and the use of both discrete trial training in the natural environment and during intensive teaching sessions. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm.

February 25-27, Vancouver. FASD Phase 1 Training with Diane Malbin. Registration forms will be available at www.fnsa.ca/specialed.htm#2. Questions? Contact Kelly Kitchen or Barb O'Neill at 1-877-422-3672

February 28-March 1, Vancouver. 2nd Annual National Conference, Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre. The conference theme, Seeing Ourselves in the Mirror: Giving Life to Learning, will feature holistic learning practices that support learning through all the stages of life. Highlights include a pre-conference showcase on holistic learning, workshops on Indigenous knowledge, and meeting the needs of Aboriginal learners, banquet, conversation circles, and a town hall meeting. Contact conference@fnesc.ca or visit www.ccl-cca.ca/aboriginallearning

March 1, Nanaimo. 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. 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.

March 7, Prince George. Educational Spring Fling: 4th North Central Zone Conference. Featuring Barry MacDonald <http://MentoringBoys.com> as keynote in addition to PITA and BCPTA mini conferences. Excellent variety of workshops for all grades and subject areas. Prince George Senior Secondary School. Brochure and presenter information available at www.bctf.ca/locals/Local57/, www.bctf.ca/NorthCentralZone. For more information contact Deb Vandal at dvandal@sd57.bc.ca or 250-562-7214.

March 8, Surrey. Transitioning from High School to Work - Preparing Students with Autism for Adulthood. The workshop will define the roles and responsibilities for individuals supporting students as they mature, including parents, and will provide participants with information and strategies which help promote meaningful participation for students with ASD in the work world. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

March 13-14, Vancouver. Special Education Association of BC presents its 33rd annual Crosscurrents Conference at the Westin Bayshore. Keynote speaker Deborah Estes, "Brain Power." Workshops and exhibitors for Regular and Special Educators. Contact person: bjfoulds@telus.net

April 4-20, Delta. Basic Intensive Week Training in Choice Theory, Lead Management and Reality Processing. Thirty-hour training. Registration www.educereconsulting.com Contact 604-943-1967.

April 5, Castlegar. 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. 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.

April 10-12, Vancouver. National Biennial Conference on Adolescents and Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. FASD and Mental Health: The Wisdom of Practice. This conference will highlight ways to be most effective in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health issues in individuals with FASD, and treatment and support for their families and service providers through a "Wisdom of Practice" response. This conference will also focus on enhancing creative approaches to support, treatment and program planning with the goal of effective policy development and implementation. www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Adults.html

April 19-21, Victoria. Reclaiming Youth Seminars. These seminars will offer four options for participants to learn practical skills for success with our most challenging children and youth: Circle of Courage Foundations; Response Ability Pathways; Developmental Audit Certification; & Understanding and Respecting Culture. All sessions are grounded in resilience research showing that inner strengths and external supports are essential for positive youth development. www.reclaiming.com

April 25-26, Kelowna. Catalyst 2008, "Scientific and Environmental Literacy." Keynote speakers: Simon Jackson (Spirit Bear Youth Coalition Founder) and Bob McDonald (Quirks and Quarks). The Grand Lakefront Resort and Conference Centre, Kelowna. Co-chairs: kmorley@bcscta.ca, grainey@bcscta.ca, Check web site www.bcscta.ca, for presenter, delegate, and exhibitor registrations. jfoulds@telus.net

May 8-9 Castlegar. Eighth Annual Early Success Symposium. Selkirk College. Target audience is those who work with early learners, birth to age 8. Keynote speaker is Colleen Politano. Sponsored by School Districts 5, 6, 8, 10, 20, and 51. For more information contact Pat Dooley pdooley@sd8.bc.ca

May 21 – 24, Banff, Alberta. International Conference on FASD. Building on our Strengths: Stone by Stone. The Canada Northwest FASD Partnership invites you to join us in this important multidisciplinary conference. Activities include a variety of speakers, presentations, community showcase displays and poster presentations. Together we will share experiences, enhance partnerships, and build on our existing strengths. www.cnfasdpartnership.ca

May 26 - 28, Vancouver. Gordon Neufeld course on Aggression & Violence in Children and Youth. The 3-day course is directed towards teachers, principals, counselors, and other professionals, but parents are welcome to attend. For further information, consult www.jackhirose.com or contact Jack Hirose at 1-800-456-5424. His email address is jackhirose@shaw.ca.

June 12-14, Surrey. The 2008 BC Association for Community Living (BCACL) Conference. Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel. A full program of plenary sessions and workshops focusing on "Tools for Change" promises to challenge and encourage all participants. Visit the website for more information as it becomes available. Are you interested in being a sponsor, or exhibiting your service or product? For more details on exhibiting in Surrey, please contact Vanessa Scholten at 604-984-6447.