

First Nations Special Education CONNECTIONS



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

Vol. 8, No. 1 September 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.

The FNESC/FNSA Special Education Team wishes you all a great start up for the 2007/2008 year! This newsletter follows a slightly different format than the usual Connections; our Enlightening Articles and Useful Websites features will return next month. This September edition is chock-full of information and learning opportunities for you and your school. Be sure to check out the Special Professional Development issue of Connections posted online at www.fnsc.ca/resource-line.htm. Happy back-to-school!

Lisa Ellis

***NEW* First Nations Speech and Language Resource Line**

The First Nations Speech and Language Resource Line is a free service connecting teachers, administrators, parents, and service providers to the information they need to support First Nations students with speech language needs.

Feel free to give Deanne a call! Call toll-free 1-877-547-5926
Hours: Wednesday 8pm - 4:30, Thursday 3pm - 4 (24 hour voice mail)
Email: deannez@fnesc.ca

Do you want to know more about...

- Speech-language pathologists/therapists:
 - Who are they and what do they do?
 - How can I become a speech-language pathologist?
- Prevention and strategies:
 - Is there anything I can do to prevent speech and language difficulties?
 - What can I do to help my child/student develop communication skills?
- Assessments and referrals for assessments
- Understanding reports and recommendations provided by therapists
- Speech and language resources and materials
- Advocating for service and accessing/connecting to therapy services

As this is a brand new service, we expect it to develop and change in response to consumer demand. We look forward to hearing from you!

Deanne has been a community-based speech-language pathologist for over 12 years. In this role, she provides support to preschool aged children and their families as well as community school staff and students. Deanne developed and co-facilitates a family enhancement program "Talk Learn and Grow Together - Ri7p" for caregivers and their preschool children. Deanne co-authored the BCACCS publication "A Guide for Culturally Focused Early Intervention Therapy programs for Aboriginal Children and Families in British Columbia." Deanne looks forward to hearing from you! Don't hesitate to call or email her with questions/concerns.

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.

Access to SET-BC Services for First Nations Schools

SET-BC is a provincially funded organization that is mandated to provide services to students who are physically disabled, autistic, and/or visually impaired. Their services are primarily for students attending provincial schools, but as discussed at the 2007 FNSA AGM in April, FNEC/FNSA has entered into an agreement with SET-BC to provide assistive technology support to students with special needs that fall within the SET-BC mandate for services and who are attending First Nations schools.

The first round of applications for SET-BC services for the 2007/2008 school year were received and approved in June 2007. The second round deadline for applications is October 12, 2007. Please complete the First Nations School Screening Checklist for Set-BC Services and send it to the FNEC/FNSA office as directed on the form available at www.fnsa.ca/specialed.htm

“START UP” IEP Brain Blasts

By MADELINE PRICE Special Education Consultant

P: 1-877-422-3672 F: 604-885-9193 e-mail: madelinep@fnesc.ca

- Start an Individual Education Plan calendar with dates for meetings and reviews right away in September. If this seems overwhelming, prioritize by student need.
- Remember that every student could benefit from an IEP! IEP's work from the student strengths and support the areas of need. IEP's set students up for success. They should not be a “hallmark” of failure but a document that outlines individual strengths and supports, and encourages success.
- What “tools” are you using to measure progress? Yes!! IEP's measure progress; they don't highlight failure. *** These are on-going measures that teachers use every day... not formal assessments.

Ideas for measuring progress:

- | | |
|--|---|
| -baseline measure chart (included in FNEC IEP) | -copies of “before” and “after” student work |
| -words per minute chart/reading fluency chart | -on-going observational recording |
| -reading levels chart | -running records |
| -math levels chart | -frequently used word lists- words per minute |
| -unit tests | -Jerry Johns |
| -attendance/late chart | -BC Performance Standards |

Progress is what it is all about. We don't all have to progress at the same rate! But we all have the right to progress at our own rate! Progress Rocks!

IEP information resources, including FNEC's IEP Template, are available at: www.fnsa.ca/specialed_resources.htm.

Free REACH OUT High School Presentations

The BC Schizophrenia Society (BCSS) and the Mind Foundation are proud to present Reach Out, a fun and innovative tour that will raise awareness about psychosis with music and poetry! There is no cost to bring Reach Out to your school.

The popular Vancouver band Ten Ways from Sunday, and slam poet Barbara Adler perform interspersed with psychosis information and tons of prizes to help educate young people about psychosis. Reach Out is a dynamic performance suited either for high school or adult program assemblies or lunch hours, as well as evening shows for parents and communities.

The goal of Reach Out is to bring down barriers that exist around psychosis through music, slam poetry and fun, and to increase the chances of early intervention.

Psychosis has no borders and affects 3% of the population at some point during their life, which is 6 times more common than diabetes! Most experience the first symptoms during high school or early adulthood, and it can be a scary and intimidating time for affected individuals as well as those close to them.

In addition to the school concert for youth, Reach Out also provides resources and information for teachers and parents education program. Teachers are given a cd of resources on psychosis, and parents groups are provided with information and presentations on how to spot and stop this brain illness early. Early medical treatment of psychosis is very important to ensuring that young people make a full and speedy recovery.

Contact Carola Tize, ReachOut Coordinator, British Columbia Schizophrenia Society: reachout@bcss.org,
Tel: 604-682-7020, www.reachoutpsychosis.com/about_us/index.html

Arrange a Visit from FNEsc's Special Education Team

Members of the First Nations School Association can request the services of the Special Education Team. Madeline Price or Lisa Ellis can come to your schools to assist with:

- Facilitation of the IEP Process (a collaborative team process);
- Classroom observation & feedback;
- Assessments;
- Sharing Successful Practices – Literacy/Numeracy; and,
- A range of staff and parent workshops.

Requests are handled on a first come, first served basis and are subject to the availability of staff. Every attempt is made to accommodate all requests. The Special Education Services Request Form is available on the FNSA website at: www.fnsa.ca/specialed.htm

Window on Technology

By Wendy Young

Wendy Young here-Bridges Western training and Pro-D Specialist, based in Prince George. My specialties include: Technology Solutions in the Classroom, PSAP implementation strategies, classroom support and more! Some of you may be familiar with my name; I did the FNEsc technology training for the project a couple of years ago.

But enough about me, this segment will appear in this newsletter as a means of support for teachers and staff with technology in their classrooms. There will be little tips on technology or links for cool websites to use with your students. It will also include my e-mail address if you have specific questions around technology or with something you are trying to accomplish with technology in your class. If you have questions, I can be reached at: wendy@bridges-canada.com, otherwise look for me here!

Now for starters, grab a cup of coffee and go have a look at these 2 cool websites: www.kidsclick.org or www.factmonster.com. These are 2 great sites that you can take a look at, and then send your students to them without worrying about pop-ups, and inappropriate information showing up. If you have any questions or topics you'd like to see here next time, contact me at the above e-mail and in the interim, have a great school year!

"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.

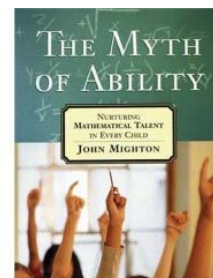
The Myth of Ability: Nurturing Mathematical Talent in Every Child

by John Mighton

A pioneering educator, John Mighton realized that children were failing math because they had come to believe they were not good at it. Once students lost confidence in their math skills and fell behind, it was very difficult for them to catch up, particularly in the classroom. He knew this from experience, because he had once failed math himself.

Using the premise that anyone can learn math and anyone can teach it, Mighton's unique teaching method isolates and describes concepts so clearly that students of all skill levels can understand them. Rather than fearing failure, students learn from and build on their own successes and gain the confidence and self-esteem they need to be inspired to learn. Not only have Mighton's methods helped children overcome their fear of math, but the resulting confidence has led to improved reading and motor skills as well.

The Special Education Resource Library also has sample copies of the grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 student workbooks for the JUMP (Junior Undiscovered Math Prodigy) program developed by John Mighton.



Dates for your Calendar

Don't miss local special education related workshops and conferences! The 2007-2008 Special Professional Development issue of Connections is available online at: www.fnsa.ca/resource-line.htm.

SEP Deadlines

- Coordinated Assessment Applications October 5, 2007
- High Cost Funding Applications October 5, 2007
- SEP Work Plan October 5, 2007
- SET-BC Application Second Round October 12, 2007
- First Nations School Annual Report February 22, 2008
- SEP Final Report June 20, 2008

SEP documents are online at www.fnsa.ca/specialed.htm. If you need further information, contact Barb at (604) 925-6087 or 1-877-422-3672.

Don't miss local special education related workshops and conferences! The 2007-2008 Special Professional Development issue of Connections is available online at: www.fnsa.ca/resource-line.htm.

Here are a few of the Pro-D events coming up soon:

September 15 - Williams Lake. Encouraging Parent - Child Interaction - Techniques for Parents & Professionals. 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. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

September 21-22 - Campbell River. 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.

September 22 - Cranbrook. 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

September 22 - Vancouver. Mental Health Conditions and Autism: A Workshop on Identifying, Monitoring and Treating Common Psychiatric Syndromes. Dr. Vikram Dua, a child and adolescent psychiatrist, will provide an outline of the psychiatric syndromes frequently present in children and youth with ASD. A review of the unique symptoms and treatment needs of specific disorders such as ADHD, anxiety, OCD, Tourette's Syndrome and mood disorders will be provided. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/2007/MentalHealthConditions_Dua_2007.htm

September 27 - Kitimat. Gordon Neufeld presents a 2-hour evening presentation on **Hold On To Your Kids**. Contact Pamela Anal at pamana@telus.net

September 29 - Prince George. 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

October 4-5 - Whitehorse, Yukon. SD#87 Annual Fall Conference. "Designs for Learning" with Dawn Reithaug on adapting and modifying programs and Tanya Helton on intro to attachment theory, attachment and at-risk children and strategies to deal with challenging behaviour. Contact Nita Connolly at nconnolly@atlin.net

October 4-5 - Abbotsford. Nurturing Hidden Resilience across Cultures and Contexts: Intervention with Children Youth and Families in Child Welfare, Corrections, Mental Health and Educational Settings. Participative workshop that challenges anyone who works with dangerous and disordered youth and their families to better understand problem behaviours. www.iss-bc.ca/node/94

October 12-13 - Burnaby. Canadian Hard of Hearing Association BC Parents' Branch 2007 Family Weekend. www.chhparents.bc.ca

October 12-14 - Evans Lake, Squamish. Youth Conference - 11th 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, Castlegar. Encouraging Parent - Child Interaction - Techniques for Parents & Professionals. 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. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm