

# First Nations Special Education CONNECTIONS



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

Vol. 8, No. 2 October 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](mailto:lisae@fnesc.ca)**

*Connections* is the newsletter of the Resource Line. Back issues of *Connections* are available from [www.fnsa.ca/resource-line.htm](http://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.

*Wow, September just flew by in a whirl of activity! With start-up housekeeping behind us, now is the time to focus on making this the best year ever. What better way to do that than to connect with colleagues and learn some fresh ideas at a workshop or conference? Professional development activities positively abound around BC in October. Happy learning!*

*Lisa Ellis*

### Occupational Therapy for Students in First Nations Schools

A regular question on the Resource Line is, "How do students in First Nations schools receive Occupational Therapy services?" Generally, schools are responsible for arranging services. Special Education Program (SEP) funding can be used to contract these services. The BC Society for Occupational Therapists has a search engine on its site, which can be used to locate private therapists. Go to: [www.bcsot.org](http://www.bcsot.org).

An Occupational Therapist (OT) works with children who do not demonstrate age appropriate physical abilities (coordination and grasping small objects, for example), the skills to look after themselves (dressing, feeding) or to play. An OT can support children to successfully participate in school, including printing, copying, organizing their workspace or adapting parts of the classroom so that the child can fully engage in the learning environment. As these children grow older, an OT will also help the youth gain appropriate work skills to transition into the world beyond school.

OTs generally provide consultative services rather than one to one intervention. They may provide assessment through informal observation, interviews with the student/family and school team, and standardized tests. They can consult with, train and coach teachers and support workers, and provide workshops and handouts. They can be part of IEPs and other team meetings to discuss evaluation results and recommendations.

Consider referring for OT when there are concerns about:

- Handwriting performance and visual motor skills
  - demonstrating difficulty with fine motor skills in class (cutting, colouring, drawing, printing, etc.)
  - oral language skills and/or reading are significantly better than their written output.
- Access to the academic curriculum and school participation for low incidence students
  - fine motor skills (hand function)
  - sensory integration/processing
  - activities of daily living- independence in self care
  - feeding and oral motor skills for feeding

*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.*



## Window on Technology: Boardmaker Version 6

By Wendy Young, Bridges Western Training and Pro-D Specialist

Everybody's making new communication supports, classroom labels, and support materials for the curriculum right about now, so I thought I'd tell you about some of the new features in Boardmaker v.6, designed to make creating materials quicker and easier:

- Right Click Thumbnail View- When you are viewing symbols using the thumbnail view, you can right-click on the symbol you want to place on your board. This will allow you to keep your symbol finder open while selecting the order of symbol placement!
- Right Click while editing text- Once in the document you are creating with the cursor/pointer tool selected, simply right click on the text and all of the text editing tools are right under your thumb.
- Boardmaker v. 6 also has the coolest new tool called Symbolate. When you start typing into your document, Symbolate adds both symbols and text at the same time! You can change symbols and even go out into your pictures and pull in digital shots - whatever your student needs to be best supported!
- Thinking about upgrading if you don't have Version 6? Visit the Bridges website at: [www.bridges-canada.com](http://www.bridges-canada.com), then click on the BC news for all of the information you'll need.
- Did you know that Mayer-John has an Activity of the Month, as well as Tips and Tricks? You can also download any templates that you may not have.

If you have questions, I can be reached at: [wendy@bridges-canada.com](mailto:wendy@bridges-canada.com) or call: 1-250-962-8839; otherwise look for me here! Enjoy the fall!

## Online Resources & Links

### The Centre of Knowledge on Healthy Child Development

<http://knowledge.offordcentre.com/index.html>



The Centre of Knowledge on Healthy Child Development publishes information on topics concerning healthy child development and child and youth mental health. One in five children growing up today shows signs of a mental health problem. Among the most common are behaviour and attention problems, mood problems, and anxiety problems. Development and learning problems are also a challenge for too many children, youth, parents and educators. These issues are highlighted on this site. Each of the sections gives clear, concise background information backed up with informative articles, current research reviews and further resources. As well, there's a downloadable series of information pamphlets especially for parents on:

- Attention Problems in Children and Adolescents
- Anxiety Problems in Children and Adolescents
- Behaviour Problems in Children and Adolescents
- Mood Problems in Children and Adolescents

## Articles Online

### Diffusing Violent Behaviour in Young Children: An Ounce of Prevention

By Diane Smallwood, National Association of School Psychologists

[www.nasponline.org/resources/handouts/violent\\_handout.pdf](http://www.nasponline.org/resources/handouts/violent_handout.pdf)

Children who show explosive or noncompliant behaviour present the most difficult challenge to school personnel and parents. This article provides basic strategies to give these children the mechanisms to recognize and prevent violent/noncompliant outbursts before they happen. Prevention and problem-solving strategies are given on how to:

- create a positive framework for changing behaviour by implementing a school-wide approach to build positive behaviour skills,
- identify the underlying impetus of the behaviour,
- determine the circumstances that trigger outbursts,
- stay in front of the meltdown to help the child stop the meltdown before it starts.
- identify the precursor behaviors that indicate the child is getting upset,
- teach the child to recognize these signs in order to implement coping strategies before losing control,
- show the child that you are an advocate for his success, and
- engage parents as partners.

The upfront work involved in helping the explosive/noncompliant child may seem daunting but the investment is worth it.

## "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](mailto:pattiy@fnesc.ca).

### REWARDS Reading Excellence: Word Attack and Rate Development Strategies

Archer, A., Gleason, M., & Vachon, V.

Give your older students a chance to master grade level material. This specialized reading program is designed to teach intermediate and secondary students a flexible strategy for decoding long words and to increase their oral and silent reading fluency. In 20 lessons, your intermediate and secondary students will:



- learn to decode multisyllabic words,
- learn to read multisyllabic words in content-area textbooks,
- increase reading fluency, and much more!

The REWARDS Teacher's Guide and a 42-minute Demonstration Video are both available to borrow.

## 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.fnsc.ca/resource-line.htm](http://www.fnsc.ca/resource-line.htm).

**October 12-13, Burnaby.** Canadian Hard of Hearing Association BC Parents' Branch 2007 Family Weekend. [www.chhparents.bc.ca](http://www.chhparents.bc.ca)

**October 12-13, Vancouver.** An Introduction to the Verbal Behavior Approach to Applied Behavior Analysis. For more information visit: [www.actbc.ca/workshops\\_and\\_training/workshops/bytitle.htm](http://www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm).

**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](http://www.mcs.bc.ca/ya_b4.htm) or call 604-291-1996.

**October 13, Castlegar.** Encouraging Parent - Child Interaction - Techniques for Parents & Professionals. For more information visit: [www.actbc.ca/workshops\\_and\\_training/workshops/bytitle.htm](http://www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm)

**October 18, Duncan.** Quw'utsun Smuneem Elementary School along with Yathuythut, Lelum'el and Quwutsun Suywentst, is sponsoring two workshops for parents and caregivers: Relationships Matter – The Power of Attachment (1:00-3:15), and Why Time-Outs and Consequences Don't Work (7:00-9:15). Presented by Dr. Gordon Neufeld, foremost authority on child development, international speaker, and bestselling author (*Hold On To Your Kids*), these workshops are free to Cowichan parents. Dinner will be served at 5:00. To register call Diane Dous or Sally Peter at (250) 746-9770.

**October 18-19, Maple Ridge.** "Teaching to the Multiple Literacies." This conference will feature Jim Delisle on the social, emotional needs of gifted learners and focus with keynote speaker Will Richardson on using educational technology as an instructional tool to improve student learning across the multiple literacies. For more information, contact Matt Rosati, [mrosatisd42@gmail.com](mailto:mrosatisd42@gmail.com). [www.lowermainlandgifted.ca/default.htm](http://www.lowermainlandgifted.ca/default.htm)

**October 18-19, Vancouver.** BC Teachers of English Language Arts (BCTELA) conference "Reading the World, Writing Ourselves." Features Fay Brownlie and BC novelist Gail Anderson-Dargatz. Over thirty conference sessions, including Literacy, Identity and Critical Expression: Engaging Struggling Youth Through Multimedia; English 12: First Peoples; Early Contact Early Canada: Hearing the Aboriginal voice through historical fiction and non-fiction multi-leveled texts; Strategies for Writing: Success for All Learners; Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Lesson Planning in Everyday Teaching; Whatever it Takes to Include Everyone. Registration info at [www.bctf.ca/bctela/](http://www.bctf.ca/bctela/)

**October 18-19, Vancouver.** The BC School Counsellors' Association, "Agents of Change." Coast Plaza Hotel, Vancouver's West End. Welcome Reception, October 17 (evening). Keynote speakers Justin Trudeau and Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond (BC's first rep for children and youth), more than 35 workshops and special events on every day of the conference. [www.agentsofchange2007.com/index.html](http://www.agentsofchange2007.com/index.html)

**October 18-20, Kamloops.** 2007 Gender and Student Achievement Conference: Addressing the Gender Gap in Education. Workshops include: Boys Adrift: Five Factors Driving the Growing Epidemic of Unmotivated Boys; Disrupted Attachments: Why Boys Have Greater Difficulty Learning and How to Restore the Balance; Success for Aboriginal Learners; Resisting the Lure of Drugs: Helping the Male Adolescent Avoid the Trap of Substance Abuse; Identifying the Male Student at Risk. (250) 374-0679 [conference@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:conference@sd73.bc.ca) [www.sd73.bc.ca/conference](http://www.sd73.bc.ca/conference)

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**October 19, Duncan.** Quw'utsun Smuneeem Elementary School along with Yathuythut, Lelum'el and Quwutsun Suywentst, is sponsoring an all day workshop for teachers and front line workers: Relationships Matter – The Power of Attachment. Presented by Dr. Gordon Neufeld, foremost authority on child development, international speaker, and bestselling author (Hold On To Your Kids), this workshop is \$100.00, which includes lunch. To register call Diane Dous or Sally Peter at (250) 746-9770.

**October 19, Richmond.** BC Association of Math Teachers' Fall Conference, "Diversity in Math: Thinking, Learning and Teaching." For information and on-line registration: [bcamt.ca](http://bcamt.ca).

**October 19, Langley.** Weaving a Tapestry of Success: Designing Instruction for all Learners. Differentiated Learning: How do we design instruction that effectively meets the needs of all learners in our class? Simply, but not easily! The process requires prioritizing, planning, and partnerships. You will have the time to explore each of these aspects and to create a blueprint for an inclusive unit/lesson. <https://apps1.sd35.bc.ca/workshops/>

**October 19, Vancouver.** Learning Assistance Teachers' Association Conference. "Rethinking Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder" with Dr. Rosemary Tannock, Head Research Scientist, Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto). Dr. Tannock is a renowned Canadian specialist in the field of ADHD. She will discuss ADHD as a learning and cognitive disorder rather than a behavioral disorder and the implications involved in teaching children having this disorder. All educators are invited to attend this conference. Contact Alan Peterson, Conference chair: [lataconference@hotmail.com](mailto:lataconference@hotmail.com)

**October 19-20, Abbotsford.** PITA Fall Conference. Abbotsford Traditional Middle School. 'Learning for All'. Learn how to teach all students with less stress. Learn new strategies in most curriculum areas. Great workshops with presenters such as Dawn Reithaug, Mary Moody, Diana Cruchley and Brian Herrin. Contact Ray Myrtle PITA President, [rmyrtle@canada.com](mailto:rmyrtle@canada.com). Information at [www.pita.ca](http://www.pita.ca)

**October 20, Vancouver.** Focus on Research Event – Celebrate Autism Awareness Month - Early Intervention Approaches for Infants, Toddlers and Preschool Children with Autism. For more information visit: [www.actbc.ca/workshops\\_and\\_training/workshops/2007/Conference\\_Dawson\\_Rogers\\_Oct2007.htm](http://www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/2007/Conference_Dawson_Rogers_Oct2007.htm)

**October 23, Bella Bella.** 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](http://www.fnsa.ca/specialed.htm#2). Questions? Contact Kelly Kitchen or Barb O'Neill at 1-877-422-3672

**October 26–27, Quesnel.** Positive Behaviour Support at Home with Families of Children with ASD & Related Disabilities. For more information visit: [www.actbc.ca/workshops\\_and\\_training/workshops/bytitle.htm](http://www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm).

**October 26-27, Whistler.** BC Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists annual conference. Fairmont Chateau. For more information visit [www.bcaslpa.ca](http://www.bcaslpa.ca)

**October 27, Gibsons.** An Introduction to Autism Treatment - A Case Management Survival Guide for Parents & Community Professionals. For more information visit: [www.actbc.ca/workshops\\_and\\_training/workshops/bytitle.htm](http://www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm)

**October 27, Prince George.** The Art of Advocacy for Parents of Children with Special Needs. For more information visit: [www.actbc.ca/workshops\\_and\\_training/workshops/bytitle.htm](http://www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm).

**October 29–30, Richmond.** First Nations Schools Association, in partnership with the Ministry of Children and Families Development, is providing training for teachers and parents of students in grades four and five in order to implement the Friends for Life program. The curriculum focuses on developing strategies and habits for dealing successfully with anxiety. For further information contact: Kelly Kitchen, (604) 925-6087, 1-877-422-3672, [kellyk@fnesc.ca](mailto:kellyk@fnesc.ca), [www.fnsa.ca/programs.htm#friends](http://www.fnsa.ca/programs.htm#friends)

**October 31-November 2, Richmond.** Celebrating its 10th Anniversary, "Making Connections - Systems for Success," 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. For more information, please contact Kathy Champion at [richmond.sd38.bc.ca](http://richmond.sd38.bc.ca) or call 604-668-6006.

**November 1–3, Vancouver.** Hands-On Training in Verbal Behaviour for Therapists. For more information visit: [www.actbc.ca/workshops\\_and\\_training/workshops/2007/VBehaviour\\_May2007.htm](http://www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/2007/VBehaviour_May2007.htm)

**November 3, Castlegar.** The Art of Advocacy for Parents of Children with Special Needs. For more information visit: [www.actbc.ca/workshops\\_and\\_training/workshops/bytitle.htm](http://www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm).

**November 3, Victoria.** Sensory Processing in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder - For more information visit: [www.actbc.ca/workshops\\_and\\_training/workshops/2007/Sensory\\_Fulks.htm](http://www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/2007/Sensory_Fulks.htm)

**November 6, Vancouver.** Working with Angry, Resistant Children & Adolescents: Strategies for Fostering Motivation, Self-Discipline and Resilience. For more information visit: [www.jackhirose.com/brochures/bcbrooks20071106reg.html](http://www.jackhirose.com/brochures/bcbrooks20071106reg.html)