

# First Nations Special Education CONNECTIONS



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

Vol. 8, No. 5 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 Resource Line! The Resource Line is a free service for BC educators and parents.

The Resource Line is designed 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.fnsc.ca/resource-line.htm](http://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.

*I hope you are all rejuvenated and ready to enter into the most productive learning time of the school year. There are many professional development opportunities coming up in the next few months. We have posted a **Special Updated and Revised Connections Professional Development Issue** at: [www.fnsc.ca/resource-line.htm#connections](http://www.fnsc.ca/resource-line.htm#connections).*

*Happy New Year!*

*Lisa Ellis*

## Useful Websites

### All About Adolescent Literacy: Resources for parents and educators of kids in grades 4 through 12

[www.adlit.org](http://www.adlit.org)

AdLit.org is a multimedia project offering information and resources to the parents and educators of struggling adolescent readers and writers. On this site, you can subscribe to their newsletter, *Word Up!*, read about the latest research in adolescent literature, and peruse strategies or "Ask the Experts". Although this is a new site, it is a sister site to the excellent LD Online and Reading Rockets sites. It promises to be a very valuable portal for reliable information on adolescent literacy.



### Mind Your Mind

[www.mindyourmind.ca](http://www.mindyourmind.ca)

MindYourMind.ca is an award-winning Canadian site for youth by youth. MYM provides the information, resources and skills to enable youth to reach out, to get help for themselves and to give help to their friends who may be struggling with stress, mental health issues, self-harming behaviours or suicidal thoughts. MYM strives to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness by reframing perceptions, disregarding stereotypes and equipping youth with the knowledge and information they need to affect change. The site uses art, music, games, video, celebrity interviews, interaction and other creative means to engage youth.



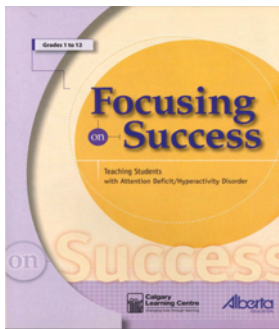
## First Nations Language Recordings About Mental Illness

[www.bcscs.org/2007/09/21/first-nations-language-recordings-about-mental-illness/](http://www.bcscs.org/2007/09/21/first-nations-language-recordings-about-mental-illness/)

The British Columbia Schizophrenia Society offers a series of First Nations language recordings about mental illness. This series of audio recordings give basic information on five major mental illnesses (schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder), in three First Nations languages - Carrier, Tsilhqot'in and Shuswap.



## Articles and Resources Online



### Focusing on Success: Teaching Students with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

Produced by Alberta Education The full text can be downloaded at:

<http://education.alberta.ca/admin/special/resources/adhd.aspx>

Alberta Learning continues to develop strong and helpful special education resources. This manual provides classroom teachers with information and practical strategies they can use to better meet the needs of students with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

Chapters include:

- Understanding AD/HD
- Building Home-School Partnerships
- Understanding Approaches to Managing AD/HD
- Creating Supportive Classroom Environments
- Choosing Instructional Strategies
- Building Connections and Creating Hope
- Moving to Independence
- Sample Tools - *this section provides resources for teachers and students, including:*
  - ✧ Sample Individualized Program Plan (IEP)
  - ✧ Solution-Focused Meetings and Sample Planner
  - ✧ How "Listener Friendly" is My Teaching?
  - ✧ Reading Strategies Survey
  - ✧ Knowing My Strengths and Challenges
  - ✧ Strategies to Support Reading and Writing
  - ✧ Strategies to Support Attention and Memory Difficulties
  - ✧ Be Your Own Self-Advocate
  - ✧ Asking for Help Ticket

### The Savvy Teacher's Guide: Reading Interventions That Work

By Jim Wright Download the Guide at:

[www.jimwrightonline.com/pdfdocs/brouge/rdngManual.PDF](http://www.jimwrightonline.com/pdfdocs/brouge/rdngManual.PDF)

This manual was created for classroom instructors who seek a range of research-backed reading interventions for students with diverse learning needs. The guide begins with an excellent explanation of how to directly teach academic strategies so students will be able to use the tools you are giving them. Other sections highlight techniques to promote error correction, reading fluency and build text comprehension.

## 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.

It is your source for information about the following topics:

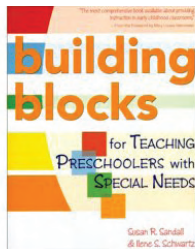
- Speech-language pathologists/therapists;
- Prevention and strategies;
- Assessments and referrals for assessments;
- Understanding reports and recommendations provided by therapists;
- Speech and language resources and materials; and
- Advocating for service and accessing/connecting to therapy services.

Feel free to give Deanne a call! Call toll-free in BC 1-877-547-5926.

Hours: Wednesday 8am - 4:30pm, Thursday 3pm – 4pm (24-hour voice mail)  
Email: [deannez@fnesc.ca](mailto:deannez@fnesc.ca)

## “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>. If you would like to see all of the Lending Library Resources, try putting “Special Education” as your search term. All of the resources will be listed. 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](mailto:pattiy@fnesc.ca).*

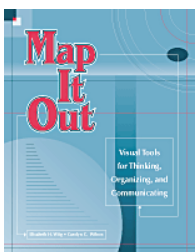


### Building Blocks for Teaching Preschoolers with Special Needs

By Sandall, S.R., & Schwartz, I.S.

In an inclusive early childhood classroom, the everyday challenges teachers face can seem overwhelming — especially if they have little experience working with children who have disabilities. This easy-to-use guidebook offers strategies for teaching children with special needs, tailoring activities to individual needs, and working on a child's IEP goals.

At the heart of the book is the authors' Building Blocks model - three practical methods teachers can use to include young children with disabilities in the classroom: curriculum modifications that allow all children to participate, embedded learning opportunities that are used within typical classroom activities, and child-focused instructional strategies that help students achieve individual learning objectives. This guide gives practical suggestions for implementing each Building Block and includes reproducible materials.



### Map It Out: Visual Tools for Thinking, Organizing, and Communicating

Wiig, E. & Wilson, C.

We all know how a simple Venn diagram can unlock similarities and differences, and how a K.W.L. (Know, Wonder, Learned) chart can organize and provide motivation for a whole unit of information. Visual tools are powerful! This is a whole book of graphic organizers and conceptual maps designed with children (in elementary through secondary grades) in mind.

## An Invitation to Join the Email List

*Have you joined the First Nations Special Needs Electronic Mailing List yet? This is a fantastic way to keep up to date on professional development opportunities and to network with other educators who are teaching First Nations student with special needs. To join the list, or to receive Connections by email instead of fax, contact me at [lisae@fnesc.ca](mailto:lisae@fnesc.ca).*

## Dates for your Calendar

Don't miss local special education related workshops and conferences! The **REVISED 2007-2008 Special Professional Development Issue** of Connections is available online at: [www.fnsa.ca/resource-line.htm](http://www.fnsa.ca/resource-line.htm).

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

**January 12, Nanaimo.** Transitioning from High School to Work - Preparing Students with Autism for Adulthood. [www.actbc.ca/workshops\\_and\\_training/workshops/bytitle.htm](http://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](http://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.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

**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.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

**January 19, Surrey.** Sensory Processing in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder - Reaching a Common Understanding [www.actbc.ca/workshops\\_and\\_training/workshops/2007/Sensory\\_Fulks.htm](http://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](mailto: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](http://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. [www.actbc.ca/workshops\\_and\\_training/workshops/bytitle.htm](http://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 [www.actbc.ca/workshops\\_and\\_training/workshops/bytitle.htm](http://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](http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca), or [ipad@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto: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](http://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](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. For more information, contact Jolene Davies at (604) 851-4880. [www.sd34.bc.ca/upload/Shared%20Learning%202007\\_NO%20SUP.pdf](http://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. [www.actbc.ca/workshops\\_and\\_training/workshops/bytitle.htm](http://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](http://www.fnsa.ca/specialed.htm#2). Questions? Contact Kelly Kitchen or Barb O'Neill at 1-877-422-3672