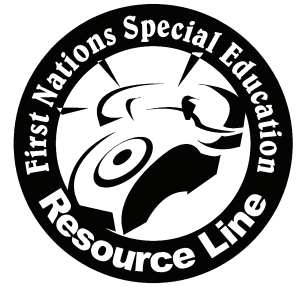


First Nations Special Education CONNECTIONS



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

Vol. 8, No. 7 Mar. 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

lisa@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.

Best wishes for a happy and restful spring break! The Resource Line will be closed from March 13th to April 2nd. I look forward to hearing from you after the break.

Lisa Ellis



Articles and Resources Online

Resources for Involving Students in Their IEP Process

By Uphold, N.M., Walker, A.R., & Test, D.W.

<http://escholarship.bc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1145&context=education/tecplus>

The IEP process is one vehicle that all teachers can use to teach self-determination and self-advocacy skills. Research has demonstrated that students with disabilities can participate in each stage, including planning, drafting, meeting to revise the draft, and implementing the plan. This article provides an overview of student involvement in the IEP process and describes no-cost resources that teachers can use to involve their students in the IEP process. Included in the article are the following helpful resource links:

- *Who makes the choices? Arizona's student-led IEP teacher toolkit* www.studentledieps.org
Provides sample modifications for grades and disability level, and includes lesson plans, forms and handouts, and basic training guide for teachers
- *Can I go to the IEP meeting?* www.idonline.org/article/6304
Questions students should ask themselves to learn more about their strengths
- *Helping students develop their IEPs: Technical assistance guide* www.nichcy.org/stuguid.asp
Student guide – learning about IEP and how to prepare for meeting; Technical Assistance Guide – suggestions for teaching students about their IEP; Audiotape – students talk about their experiences in leading their IEP meetings
- *IEP portfolio template* <http://hawbaker.pls.iowapages.org/id2.html>
Worksheets for students to use as a guide to lead IEP meeting

Strategies for Teaching Youth with ADD and ADHD

By: Thomas McIntyre

www.idonline.org/article/13701

The research literature has identified classroom characteristics that promote success for students with ADD and ADHD. Predictability, structure, short working periods, a small teacher-to-pupil ratio, individualized instruction, an interesting curriculum, and lots of positive reinforcement are all important to student progress. Researchers have also identified optimal teacher characteristics. They include positive academic expectations, personal warmth, patience, humour, consistency, firmness, frequent monitoring of student work, and knowledge of behaviour management strategies. In this article, you will find specific strategies for behaviour management, modifications to the classroom environment, starting your lesson, making lessons more interesting, memory assistance, testing accommodations, transitions, and homework. Here are a few ideas from the Keeping Student on Task section:

- Present the assignment in parts (e.g., 5 math problems at a time). Give reinforcement for each completed part before giving the next segment of the task, or have the youngster mark off his/her progress on a chart.
- Keep unstructured time to a minimum.
- Allow the student to use learning aides, computers, calculators.
- Allow the student to manipulate an object as long as s/he attends and is on task. Allow the pupil to doodle, squeeze a ball, bend a pipe cleaner or paper clip, or handle another non-distracting item.
- Provide some choice or variation in assignments to maintain the student's attention.
- Motivate the youngster by having him/her "race against the clock" to finish the task (or part of it).
- In a multi-part task, provide visual cues that are written on the student's desk or on the chalkboard for each part. The student then engages in that next step.
- Allow the student to change seats and places as long as s/he stays on task.

SEN Teacher

www.senteacher.org

SEN Teacher provides free teaching & learning resources for students with special needs and learning disabilities.

- **The Printables Page** has a selection of printable worksheets, handouts and teaching aids which can be customised to suit a range of learners. These excellent resources can be used to support your students with hands-on manipulatives and engaging game-like materials. The materials are sorted into three sections: Math, English and Other (which includes resources for teaching social skills, developing feeling vocabulary, and supporting behaviour.)
- **The Links Page** lists websites which have been carefully selected for the quality of their information or because they provide further excellent sources of free learning resources and software.
- **The Files Page** lists free educational software from many sources which has proved useful to teachers and parents of special needs students.

Reading Rockets

www.readingrockets.org/shows/watch

The following programs were produced by Reading Rockets and can be viewed online for free through video streaming:

- **A Chance to Read:** Hosted by Molly Ringwald, A Chance to Read looks at the reading challenges facing kids with disabilities, and what schools across the country are doing to help them find success.
- **Reading and the Brain:** Hosted by Henry Winkler, who has had his own struggles with reading, Reading and the Brain explores how brain scientists are working to solve the puzzle of why some children struggle to read and others don't. New research shows the answer may lie in how a child's brain is wired from birth.



- **Reading Rocks!:** Set to a hip-hop soundtrack, Reading Rocks! is an upbeat new PBS television special that uses humor and stories of hope to encourage struggling readers to keep trying. The special also helps parents and teachers understand and encourage struggling readers at home and school. Television and film stars Nick Spano and Vivica A. Fox add “hipness” to the 30-minute program.
- **Empowering Parents:** Empowering Parents, a PBS television special hosted by Al Roker, helps families identify early signs of reading problems and find ideas for getting their kids the help and support they need.

“Check Out” the Lending Library...

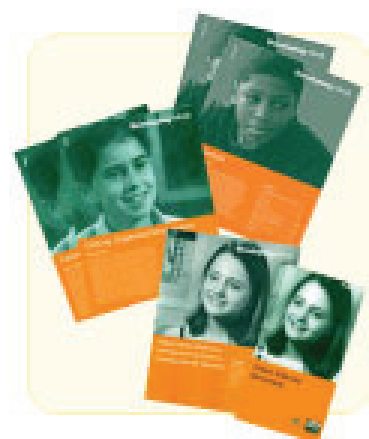
The FNEsc/FNSA Special Education Lending Library has many valuable resources for your work with First Nations students with special needs. Please note that the lending library is available to FNSA member schools only. Browse through the library’s special education materials online by visiting the website <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.

Developing Minds Video Library

Levine, M.

Featuring Dr. Mel Levine and the All Kinds of Minds approach to learning, the Developing Minds series fosters a thorough understanding of differences in learning and the process for working with each child’s unique learning profile. Classroom footage and interviews with students, parents, teachers, and learning experts demystify complex concepts.

Developing Minds, a series of 20 videos, offers key strategies to support all students’ learning differences, addresses specific learning challenges, and provides a common language for effective home and school communication.



Taming the Dragon in Your Child: Solutions for Breaking the Cycle of Family Anger

By Dr. Meg Eastman

A child psychologist and family-conflict specialist helps parents, teachers and caregivers deal with children’s anger—from toddlerhood through adolescence. Combining professional and personal insights with analyses of many true-life examples, Dr. Meg Eastman helps to zero in on the sources of rage and to anticipate and defuse the situations that can awaken it. She shows how to determine whether anger is a normal expression of hurt, fear and frustration, or if it’s a warning sign of a more serious cycle of family stress.

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 Newsletter by email instead of fax, contact me at 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.

EVENTS

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. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

March 10, Vancouver. Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute Inc. presents Responding to Trauma. This introductory workshop will explore some of the more relevant understandings about how trauma develops and then influences and impacts an individual. For more information: 204-452-9199, Toll Free: 877-353-3205, www.ctrinstitute.com

March 11, Vancouver. Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute Inc. presents Self-Harm Behaviour in Youth - Issues and Strategies. This introductory workshop will assist participants in understanding the experience and motivations of adolescents who intentionally injure themselves. In addition, the course will provide practical strategies for working with youth struggling with this complex issue. For more information: 204-452-9199, Toll Free: 1-877-353-3205, www.ctrinstitute.com

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. 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

