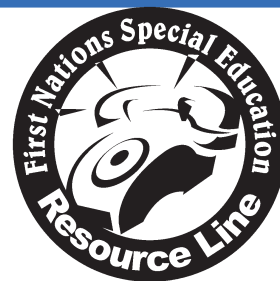


First Nations Special Education CONNECTIONS



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

Sept 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 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
lisa@fnesc.ca

Connections is the newsletter of the Resource Line. Back issues of *Connections* are available from www.fnsa.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.

2007 / 2008 Professional Development Opportunities

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

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 19-20 - Winnipeg, Man. *7th Aboriginal FASD National Forum: Towards Inclusion in Schools and Communities - Tapping Hidden Strengths of Parents, Teachers and Caregivers of Children, Adolescents and Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.* W. Zarchikoff & Associates. 1-888-683-7711 (Toll Free), wzarchikoff@msn.com

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.chhaparents.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

October 18-19 - Maple Ridge. “Teaching to the Multiple Literacies.” This conference will feature Jim Delisle on the social and emotional needs of gifted learners, 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. 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/

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

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, www.sd73.bc.ca/conference

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.

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

October 19-20, - Abbotsford. PITA Fall Conference: “Learning for All.” Abbotsford Traditional Middle School. 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. Information at 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. Internationally renowned researchers present on early intervention approaches for infants, toddlers and preschool age children with autism. Topics covered will include new studies on brain plasticity and early development in autism and an overview of current approaches to early intervention. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/2007/Conference_Dawson_Rogers_Oct2007.htm

October 26–27 - Quesnel. 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.

October 26-27 - Whistler. BC Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists annual conference. Fairmont Chateau. For more information visit www.bcaslpa.ca

October 27 - Gibsons. 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 27 - Prince George. 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.

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, www.fnsc.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 or call 604-668-6006.

November 1–3 - Vancouver. Hands-On Training in Verbal Behaviour for Therapists. Presented by Suzanne Jacobsen, Ed.D., BCBA & Anna Matchneva, BCABA. This workshop is designed to provide special education assistants, therapists and parents who serve as their child's primary therapist with guided practice in implementing Verbal Behaviour methodology - an approach to Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA). You must have a background in ABA & understand the terminology of Verbal Behaviour to register for this workshop. Be prepared to roll up your sleeves and practice. Seating is restricted! 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. 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.

November 3 - Victoria. 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

November 6 - Vancouver. Working with Angry, Resistant Children & Adolescents: Strategies for Fostering Motivation, Self-Discipline and Resilience. In this workshop for parents, educators and other professionals, Dr. Robert Brooks will outline a strength-based approach for working with angry, resistant children and adolescents. Dr. Brooks will outline specific strategies for reinforcing a resilient mindset in at-risk youngsters, including such qualities as motivation, self-discipline, responsibility, compassion, and hope. He will also discuss a framework to assist adults to become less vulnerable to burnout. www.jackhirore.com/brochures/bcbrooks20071106reg.html

November 8 - Surrey. Gordon Neufeld presents a 2-hour evening presentation on **Hold On To Your Kids.** This event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited and registration is required. To register, email healthed@sfu.ca or call 778.782.7451. www.sfu.ca/cstudies/health/lectures/20071108_neufeld.htm

November 8 - Vancouver. Presented by internationally acclaimed Dr. Edward M. Hallowell, M.D. **Treating Children and Youth with Attention Deficit Disorder.** For teachers and other professionals, as well as parents. Whether for children or adolescents, the treatment of ADD should be comprehensive and include a wide range of possible interventions provided over the long-term. This presentation will provide a comprehensive eight step plan for treating children and adolescents with ADD. www.jackhirore.com/brochures/bchallowell20071108reg.html

November 14-16 - Richmond. Western Canadian Conference on Addictions and Mental Health, including youth-oriented workshops: Deepening Conversations with Youth by Being Client-Directed; Trauma & Addictions in Youth; and Culture in Treating Aboriginal Youth. 1-888-877-4777, occhealth@infoserve.net, www.jackhirore.com

November 22-24 - Vancouver. 13th Annual Provincial Conference on Aboriginal Education. This year's theme is Aboriginal Perspectives in Teaching & Learning. www.fnesc.bc.ca/conferences/index.php#13th

November 23-24 - Winnipeg, Man. *Promising Practices in Aboriginal Education National Conference.* www.saeec.ca/successconference/index.html

November 26 - Vancouver. *“Autism to Aspergers: Understanding, Diagnosing & Treating the Spectrum of Rain Man Disorders.”* Dr. Peter Tanguay, M.D. The workshop begins with a presentation of the concept of social communication disorder. Aimed at teachers, other professionals and parents, participants should leave this workshop with an excellent understanding of the nature of autism spectrum disorder. They will understand the manner in which specific deficits call for specific approaches to treatment. www.jackhirose.com/brochures/bctanguay20071126reg.html

2008

January 4-5 - Vancouver. *How to use the ABLLS-R as an Assessment & IEP Development Tool.* Presented by Suzanne Jacobsen, Ed.D., BCBA. The Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills – Revised (The ABLLS-R) is an assessment tool, curriculum guide and skills-tracking system used to guide the instruction of language and critical learner skills for children with autism or other developmental disabilities. Those who have a basic understanding of the Verbal Behaviour approach to Applied Behaviour Analysis will find this workshop particularly helpful. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/2007/ABLLS-R_SJacobsen.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 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 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

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 will be available December 2007 at <http://www.bctf.ca/locals/Local57/>, <http://www.bctf.ca/NorthCentralZone>. For more information contact Deb Vandal at dvandal@sd57.bc.ca or 250-562-7214.

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 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 25-26 - Vancouver. *First Nations Schools Association Annual General Meeting and Conference.* This annual conference offers workshops and speakers geared specifically to those working in First Nations schools. www.fnasa.ca

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 website www.bcscta.ca, for presenter, delegate, and exhibitor registrations. jfoulds@telus.net

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 presents a 3-day course on ***Aggression & Violence in Children and Youth.*** The course is directed towards teachers, principals, counsellors, 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.