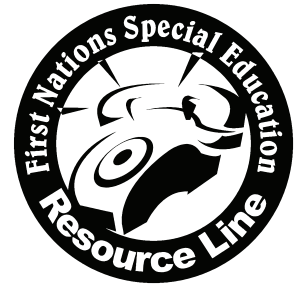


First Nations Special Education CONNECTIONS



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

Vol. 9, No. 2 Oct. 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, Holly Smith. Holly 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

hollys@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.



It is a pleasure to be serving the First Nations Education Community through the Resource Line. Keep your phone calls and emails coming as I am here to assist you in finding helpful resources, interpreting assessments, brainstorming strategies and sharing up to date information on Special Education. Many of the resources that are shared through Connections require internet access. If you need a print copy of an article or information from a website, contact:

Holly Smith

Useful Connections

Speech and Language Services and Supports for Students in First Nations Schools

The First Nations Speech and Language Resource line has been in operation for just over one year. While there have been a wide variety of calls touching on many topic areas, one of the most frequently asked questions is: How can I access speech and language services and supports for a student?

FNESC/FNSA are able to provide limited speech services to First Nations schools. There are currently 11 contracted SLPs (Speech Language Pathologists) and 2 FNESC SLPs providing support to over 50 schools in BC. At the end of each school year, school administrators are provided with a Request for Speech and Language Services form for services the following year. Once completed, this is faxed to Kelly Kitchen, Director of Special Education at FNESC.

While resources are small, every effort is made to accommodate school requests for speech and language therapy services. Another option is to use a portion of your school's special education funding to contract with a private practitioner in your area. The toll free line can help link you with someone nearby.

If you have any general questions about speech and language, would like more information on a specific topic of interest or have specific concerns about a student, please call Deanne at the toll free number of the Speech and Language Resource Line 1-877-547-5926.

First Nations Schools can request the support of a special education teacher by emailing or faxing their request to the FNESC office.

Fax:604-925-6097 Email:kellyk@fnesc.ca subject line "Request Form"

Enlightening Articles



Carol Graham of SET-BC has submitted the following article about the services and resources available through SET-BC.

Welcome back to another school year! I'm pleased that FNEESC and FNSA are working with SET-BC again this year to provide technology and training for school teams working with students with disabilities.

Last year we provided equipment and training for 27 students in 18 schools in British Columbia, some with visual disabilities, some with physical disabilities and some with autism. Through a process of consultation with school teams, students received technology that would help them access their curriculum, either a tool to help them with reading and writing or a tool to help them with communication.

School staff members received specific training for equipment and software related directly to their students. Some school staffs received more generalized, large-group training on implementing software in their school, such as Clicker 5, Boardmaker and Kurzweil 3000.

Some things to look for on the SET-BC website www.setbc.org:

- **CurriculumSET** – a resource of downloadable activities to support the curriculum in programs such as Clicker 5 and IntelliTools Classroom Suite
- **PictureSET** – for activities for communication, downloadable in either Boardmaker or in PDF format
- **Accessible Books** – a listing of over 500 children's' books that have been scanned and recorded into PowerPoint and other programs, allowing students to 'read' the stories on their computer. If a school owns the print copy of a book, SET-BC will send you a CD with the Accessible Book version free of charge
- **The Provincial Software Acquisition Project (PSAP)** – where schools in BC can purchase selected educational software at a much-reduced rate
- **The Learning Centre** – a great spot for training materials! You'll find video demonstrations, downloadable tipsheets and other resources to help you to implement technology with your students. This is especially helpful if you want to know more about programs you plan to implement this year, such as Boardmaker and Clicker 5
- **Upcoming Events** – check for free online learning sessions and upcoming workshops in your region
- **Virtual Voices Village** – a spot for students! This is a place for students with disabilities to share their ideas and participate in projects and contests. There's always something exciting going on here!

We will continue to work with the teams for students who received equipment last year and look forward to meeting teams who work with students who have already been recommended this year. We will also look forward to hearing from you if you have other students you could recommend for this project. Please use the form, First Nations School Screening Checklist for Set-BC Services, which you can download from the Student Services page on the FNEESC website: www.fnesc.ca.

There will be many new opportunities and challenges that will help us make learning more successful and much more fun for our students. I hope to see you at your school in the very near future.

Carol Graham
FNEESC/FNSA/SET-BC Project
www.setbc.org Phone: 250-507-3922 Email: cgraham@setbc.org

Resources

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

www.AdLit.org

AdLit.org is a national multimedia project offering information and resources to the parents and educators of struggling adolescent readers and writers. Adolescent literacy is a hot topic in education and the amount of good research into effective instruction for older students is growing quickly. This website provides you with the latest research into effective practice. Browse the Topics A to Z to find research based information on a wide variety of topics related to adolescent literacy. There is a large section on class strategies for before, during and after literacy activities. From author interviews to guided discussions and themed booklists, this website has it all!



The Family Support Institute

www.familysupportbc.com

The Family Support Institute is a province-wide organization whose purpose is to strengthen and support families faced with the extraordinary circumstances that come with having a family member who has a disability. We believe that families are the best resource available to support one another. Directed by families, the Family Support Institute provides information, training and province-wide networking to assist families and their communities to build upon and share their strengths.



Family Support Institute

FNESC/FNSA Special Education Lending Library Spotlight

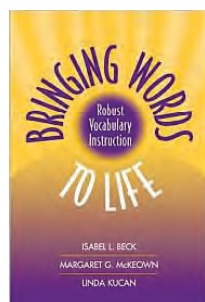
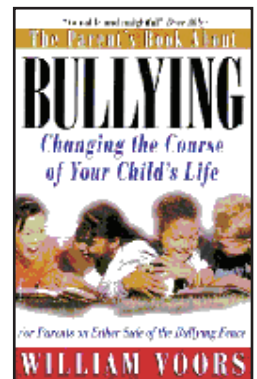
The FNESC/FNSA Special Education Lending Library has many valuable resources for your work with First Nations students with special needs. Please note that the lending library is available to FNSA member schools only.

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.

The Parent's Book About BULLYING Changing the Course of Your Child's Life

By William Voors

Effective, down-to-earth advice is given to parents, teachers, and other caregivers to help both the instigators and the targets of bullying. Voors, a licensed clinical social worker, puts bullying behavior in the proper light and gives adults the tools they need to solve the problem. In addition, adults learn how to examine themselves in order to better model healthy, assertive, nonaggressive behavior.



Bringing Words To Life Robust Vocabulary Instruction

By Isabel L. Beck, Margaret G. McKeown and Linda Kucan

Bringing Words to Life helps educators to realize the importance of meaningful, engaging vocabulary instruction. It offers valuable insights and strategies for teaching vocabulary in all classrooms, elementary through high school. The book is filled with great ideas, research-based instructional activities and even a few games. Bringing Words to Life is an ideal resource to help develop a love of language in your students.

Dates for your Calendar

Special Education Program Deadlines

Psycho-educational Assessment Applications	October 3, 2008
SET-BC Application Second Round	October 3, 2008
Additional High Cost Funding Applications	October 10, 2008
SEP Work Plan	October 10, 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. Having difficulty completing the forms? Call the Toll Free Resource Line 1-877-547-1919.

Don't miss local special education related workshops and conferences! The **2008-2009 Special Professional Development issue of Connections** is available online at: www.fnsa.ca/resource-line.htm.

October 4, Cowichan. Introduction to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Diagnostic Issues offered through Vancouver Island University as part of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Community Practitioner Certificate Program. FASD 001 F08D01 Fee: \$129 9am-4pm P: 250-746-3519. <http://www.viu.ca/ccs/certificates/fetalalcohol.asp>

October 6, Terrace & October 17, Nanaimo. Move'in and Zone'in. These two programs were developed by an occupational therapist to assist in the development of attention and fine motor skills. FNEC/FNSA will provide training in 5 locations in the province in the 2008-2009 year and will provide participants with both programs. Refer to <http://www.fnsa.ca/specialed.htm>

October 14, Surrey. Walk A Mile in My Shoes Presented by; Learning Disabilities Association – Fraser South Chapter. www.ldafs.org

October 16-17, Prince George. Bridges, Assistive Technology in Action. Hands-on trials of software for adapting curricula: SOLO (Co:Writer, Write: Outloud, Draft:Builder & Read:Outloud), Kurzweil 3000, IntelliTools Classroom Suite, Boardmaker/Boardmaker Plus! wendy@bridges-canada.com or clc@pgnfc.com, P: 250-962-8839.

October 21-23, Lower Mainland. Bridges SOLO Foundations, Classroom Suite 4 and Sorting through AT for Math. Contact Wendy Young P:250-962-8839, wendy@bridges-canada.com or visit the Bridges www.bridges-canada.com.

October 22-24, Richmond. BC School Counsellors' Association conference. The conference theme is: Putting the Pieces Together. <http://www.bcscconference.ca>

October 23-24, Burnaby. The Aboriginal Education Association AEA PSA Conference ABORIGINAL VOICES: CREATING OUR FUTURE. marjorie_dumont@hotmail.com P: 604-633-0085

October 23-24, Kamloops. Interior Region's 4th FASD Conference Hosted By: Insight Support Services Inc. P: 250-554-0085 F: 250-554-0095 Email: insightcathy@telus.net

October 24, Burnaby. "Teaching to Diversity: Universal Design for Learning" lataconference@hotmail.com or online www.bctf.ca/LATA

October 24, Coquitlam. GIFTED ED '08 CONFERENCE <http://bctf.ca/psas/AEGTCCBC>

October 24, Revelstoke. Hope and Potential: FASD workshop with Diane Malbin http://www.fasdoutreach.ca/files/downloads/Diane_Malbin_flyer_Revelstoke_October24.pdf

October 24, Vancouver. Discovering the Possibilities with Visual Strategies: Meeting the Communication, Behavior & Social Skill Challenges for Individuals with ASD http://www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/2008_pdfs/VisualStrategies.pdf

October 24, Vancouver. 'Speaking of Kids' Conference 2008 Presented by the Learning Disabilities Association –Vancouver. Website: <http://www.ldav.ca>

October 24-25, Abbotsford. BCPTA sponsored Primary Leadership Conference Contact Information Registrar Sandra Huggett shuggett@sd57.bc.ca BCPTA website www.bctf.ca/bcpta

October 25-Nov. 15, Cowichan. Disabilities Associated with FASD offered through Vancouver Island University as part of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Community Practitioner Certificate Program. FASD 002 F08D01 Fee: \$429 ~ 4 Saturday sessions 9am-4pm Call 250-746-3519. <http://www.viu.ca/ccs/certificates/fetalalcohol.asp>

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November 5, Kamloops & November 7, Vancouver. Move'in and Zone'in. <http://www.fnsa.ca/specialed.htm>

November 5-7 Richmond. Making Connections - Systems for Success. For further information, please contact Kathy Champion at: 604-668-6063 or by email: kchampion@richmond.sd38.bc.ca or visit the website at: mail.sd35.bc.ca/~BC-PBS/

November 6-7, Kelowna. Gordon Neufeld. For more information, please contact Lorraine Helgerson either by phone at 250-763-2405, or by email at kyfs@shawcable.com.

November 6, Vancouver. Healthy Schools: Improving Learning, Health and Literacy Conference www.dashbc.org or call 604-583-6047