

First Nations Special Education CONNECTIONS



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

Vol. 7, No. 2 Oct. 2006

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

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.

October is full of professional development events! Don't miss out on the valuable opportunities around the province. This is also the time of year to ensure students with special needs have up-to-date Individual Education Plans in place. I would be happy to answer any of your questions about IEPs; call me toll-free at 1-877-547-1919, or email me at lisae@fnesc.ca.

Lisa Ellis

2006 Special Education Regional Sessions

Community-based meetings, known as Special Education Regional Sessions, are being offered to give communities an opportunity to meet directly with First Nations Education Steering Committee special education staff to discuss local special education priorities. Register for the regional session nearest you by downloading a form at <http://www.fnsc.ca/> or calling toll-free 1-877-422-3672 to request a faxed form.

Prince George	October 26th
Williams Lake	November 8th
Kamloops	November 9th
Victoria	November 21st
Hazelton	November 23rd
Lower Mainland	November 29th
Prince Rupert	December 4th
Campbell River	December 11th

The following topics will be discussed at the regional sessions:

- Measuring progress in students with special needs
- IEPs as a tool for documenting student growth
- Developing a BC plan to address INAC compliance
- Regional specialist services discussion – establishing regional direction
- Topics identified by regional participants

Online Resources & Links

The Behavior Home Page

Working to Make a Difference for Children Who Display Challenging Behavior

The Behaviour Home Page: Working to Make a Difference for Children Who Display Challenging Behaviour

www.state.ky.us/agencies/behave/bi/bi.html

The goal for most educators, parents, and other professionals is for all students to be successful in school and in life. To reach that goal, many have adopted a three-tiered model of behavioural support. Interventions are developed at Universal (school-wide), Targeted (small groups or individual students), and Intensive (wraparound) levels to teach ALL students what they must do to be successful. This page identifies and provides links to resources for each level of behavioural support.

Between the Lions



<http://pbskids.org/lions/>

Between the Lions is designed to help kids ages 4 to 7 learn to read. The Between the Lions site supports the PBS educational series, but the materials provided are excellent whether you watch the series or not. There are tons of resources, including interactive games, stories, activities, printables, movie and song clips for children and literacy links. Don't miss the link to the Cornerstones project for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Articles Online

Encouraging Active Parent Participation in IEP Team Meetings

By Diane Marie Dabkowski

www.teachingld.org/pdf/teaching_how-tos/doan1.pdf

- Are parents equal partners with you in the education of students with disabilities?
- Do you actively invite parents, accommodate their schedules, and welcome their differing cultural contributions?
- Are you aware of cultural and historical processes or environments that might make parents uncomfortable?
- Are you wondering how to improve parent participation in your decision-making processes?

School team members need to engage in ongoing self-reflection and analysis to ensure a structure, team culture and meeting environment that reduces stress and promotes active parent participation in the Individual Education Program process. The full text of this article can be downloaded from the website above.

Individualized Program Planning (2006)

By Alberta Education

This article was published in the January 2006 issue of Teaching Exceptional Children, and can be downloaded at: www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/specialneeds/ipp.asp

Alberta Education has put out a series of incredibly valuable special education resources. Revised in 2006, Individualized Program Planning should be required reading for anyone working with children with special needs. This free, downloadable manual includes planning guides, sample strategies, templates, checklists, reproducible student resources, tip sheets, sample forms and surveys, and much more. And, as if it couldn't get any better, the website includes all the workshop materials you could want to support inservicing of Individualized Program Planning. Note that Individualized Program Plans are the equivalent of what we refer to as Individual Education Plans (IEPs). I have changed the acronym to the familiar "IEP" in the table of contents below:

- Working Through the IEP Process
- Encouraging Parent Involvement
- Supporting Student Participation
- Creating a Network of Support
- Using Classroom Assessment to Support the IEP Process
- Selecting Accommodations and Strategies
- Making Goals Meaningful, Measurable and Manageable
- Planning for Transitions
- Infusing Assistive Technology for Learning into the IEP Process
- Getting Off to a Good Start in Early Childhood Services
- Planning for Students Who are Gifted
- Promising Practices for Junior and Senior High School

"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>. 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.

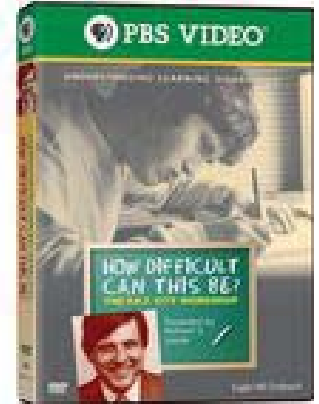
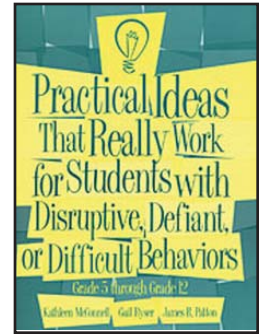
Practical Ideas That Really Work for Students with Disruptive, Defiant, or Difficult Behaviors (Grades 5-12)

By McConnell, Ryser & Patton

Practical Ideas That Really Work for Students with Disruptive, Defiant, or Difficult Behaviors is just what many educators have been looking for:

- a resource that provides teachers with practical and sensible solutions for students' behaviour problems;
- a resource for special education teachers, counselors, and administrators who must evaluate behaviour and document interventions; and
- a tool for IEP committees who are charged with developing behavioural intervention plans.

This book includes two components: 1) an easy to use evaluation form to rate a student's behaviour, select and plan for appropriate interventions, and document progress; and 2) a book of practical ideas, containing suggestions for interventions, explanations of strategies, reproducible forms, and helpful illustrations and examples.



How Difficult Can This Be? Understanding Learning Disabilities: The F.A.T. City Workshop

Hosted by Richard Lavoie, 72-minute video

A compelling demonstration of how intimidating the classroom can be through the eyes of a child with learning disabilities. In this unique workshop parents, teachers and other professionals participate in a series of classroom activities that cause them frustration, anxiety and tension (F.A.T.) - emotions familiar to the student with Learning Disabilities. During the program, adults are asked questions and invited to do exercises which have been specially fashioned to simulate the learning disabled child's experience. They come away from the program determined to alter the way they respond to the learning disabled children in their environments. The purpose of this video and guide is to sensitize people to the world of learning disabled students and to educate them towards different modes of interaction with these students.

Special Education Program Deadlines for First Nations Schools:

- Coordinated Assessment Applications October 6, 2006
- High Cost Funding Applications October 27, 2006
- SEP Work Plan October 27, 2006
- SEP Final Report June 22, 2007

SEP documents are online at www.fnsa.ca/specialed.htm
For further information, contact Barb at (604) 925-6087 or 1-877-422-3672.

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.

Dates *for your* Calendar

Don't miss local special education related workshops and conferences! The 2006-2007 Special Professional Development issue of Connections is available online at: www.fnasa.ca/resource-line.htm.

October 13-14 – Victoria. BC Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists annual conference. The topic of “supporting language development within culturally diverse groups with a focus on First Nations children” is being addressed on day 2 of the conference. Additional program and registration information:
www.bcaslpa.bc.ca/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=45&MMN_position=59:59

October 13-14 – Harrison Hot Springs. 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 plans for children with autism and developmental disabilities.
www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm.

October 14 – Williams Lake. The Art of Advocacy - A Parent's Guide to Developing Pro-active Skills. 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. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm.

October 14 – Vancouver. Sensory Assessments presented by Henry OT Services, sponsored by the BC Council for Exceptional Children. This workshop on sensory assessments includes the Sensory Processing Measure (SPM) designed to use with elementary school students to examine a child's functioning in the school and home environments. For more information, contact Junie Brayley at e-mail: junie_brayley@yorkhouse.ca.

October 19-20 – Winnipeg, Manitoba. 6th National Aboriginal FASD Conference, Promising Intervention Strategies for Parents, Teachers & Caregivers of Children & Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Conference information: W. Zarchikoff & Associates, Toll-free 1888-683-7711 or 604-530-3840 or Fax: 604-530-3841 Email: wzarchikoff@msn.com.

October 19-20 – Victoria. Learning Disabilities Association of BC Conference: Understanding a Child's Individual Sensory Processing Capacities - How This Influences Learning and Behaviour Registration information can be found at www.ldasvi.bcca or T: 250-370-9513.

October 19-21 – Victoria. Introduction to Verbal Behaviour - Teaching Communication Skills to Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities with Vincent J. Carbone. At the Laurel Point Inn. This is an important introduction for those looking for a fresh and positive approach to ABA that focuses on motivating the child to learn. Please note: ACT is planning a “Hands-on Training in VB for Therapists” in Victoria in the late fall of 2006 – the Intro workshop will be a pre-requisite for this course as well as for the ABLLS workshop which we are planning for Victoria. www.actbc.ca/act_wkshop_pdfs/Intro_VB__Victoria_Oct21_06.pdf.

October 20 – Smithers. FRIENDS Training: a school-based anxiety prevention & resiliency building program. Aimed at grades 4 and 5. Training Includes: Overview of child anxiety; Step by Step training in the implementation of the FRIENDS program; One manual and student book will be provided for each person attending; A class set of materials for Grade 4-5 levels will be sent at a later date to each teacher attending the training. Contact Cheryl Hofweber, Elementary Counsellor, SD#54, F: (250) 847-5413.

October 20-21 – Burnaby. Canadian Hard of Hearing Association BC Parents' Branch 2006 Family Weekend.
www.chhaparents.bc.ca

October 20 – New Westminster. Working with Families of Children with Disabilities: How School Counsellors Can Be Helpful - This workshop will provide school counsellors with knowledge and resources to help them provide meaningful emotional and practical support to parents and siblings of children with disabilities. Registration \$75 + GST (including lunch). For more information, contact Sharon McInnes at New Connections s.mcinnnes@shaw.ca. Website: www.newconnections.ca.

October 20 – Vancouver. Diverse Learners: A look at Differentiation with Dr. Marcia Imbeau. Presented by the Association for Educators of Gifted, Talented, and Creative Children of BC presents Gifted Ed '06. Middle school educators are encouraged to take advantage of the early bird team discounts. At the Holiday Inn Vancouver Centre, West Broadway. For more information, contact Linnea Lanstrom at llanstrom@hotmail.com.

October 20 – Vancouver. Inclusionary Practices: Building a Community of Learners in our Classrooms with Vianne Timmons, PhD, University of PEI. Presented by the Learning Assistance Teachers' Association Conference. This workshop will present the justification for inclusion, the challenges educators face and strategies that enhance the possibility of success At the Plaza 500 Hotel. For more information, contact Alan Peterson at lataconference@hotmail.com. Register online at: psas.bctf.ca/LATA/conference/events.htm.

October 20 – Langley. Differentiated Learning: One Size Doesn't Fit All. Author and Educator Gayle Gregory shares a framework and model to provide a variety of learning and assessment strategies. Teachers can then differentiate instruction and assessment to enable all learners to reach standards in a safe, nurturing environment. Register now at www.thinklangley.com #1011-06

October 20-22 – Richmond. Family Focus 2006 - The Voyage Together - 11th provincial conference presented by and for families

who have children of all ages who require extra supports. Presented by the Family Focus Society and the Richmond Society of Community Living. A variety of workshops for families, self-advocates and professionals, as well as a Children and Youth Program sponsored by Variety - The Children's Charity. At the Richmond Airport Conference Resort. For more information, see www.familyfocusconference.com, e-mail: info@familyfocusconference.com.

October 21 – Vancouver. Encouraging Parent - Child Interaction - Techniques for Parents & Professionals. Research into effective autism treatment has demonstrated that 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. Illustrated with video examples. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm.

October 28 – Prince George. Unraveling the Mystery of Sensory Processing Difficulties - What does it mean for my child with ASD? What is sensory processing and why is it important? What does sensory dysfunction look like? How does it feel? What can be done to help your child? Mary-Ann Fulks is an occupational therapist with almost 20 years experience in pediatric practice. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm

November 2-3 – Richmond. Making Connections "Systems for Success" is the 9th annual conference focusing on a systemic, positive, school-wide approach to creating a safe and caring school culture. The conference 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. Sponsored by BC CASE (Council of Administrators of Special Education). Keynote Speaker, Justin Trudeau. Presenters include: George Sugai (pre-conference Nov 1), Lucille Eber, Don Kincaid, David Smith, Rob Horner, Joe Lucyshun, Janice Coomer, Craig Gillis, Jody Langlois. For more information, contact Kathy Champion at kchampion@richmond.sd38.bc.ca or see the Institute for Safe Schools www.iss-bc.ca.

November 4 – Kamloops. Taking the Fear out of ABA - Lovaas, Verbal Behaviour and More. Committed to cutting through the dogma associated with ABA, Dr. Suzanne Jacobsen will use extensive video to illustrate how the field of Applied Behaviour Analysis has developed far beyond the stereo-type of distressed children being forced to endure long hours of boring and repetitive discrete trials. Participants will leave with an understanding of how ABA can make a significant contribution to autism treatment when individualized to meet the child's needs. www.actbc.ca/workshops_and_training/workshops/bytitle.htm.