



Welcome to PLUK's electronic newsletter!

We are proud to present news of interest for Montana families of children with disabilities and special health care needs, and for the professionals and educators who serve them; however, it does not constitute an endorsement.

Legislative Forum in Billings.

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Free Children's Tickets Available to the NILE Rodeo, October 13, Billings

PLUK has a limited number of children's tickets for the NILE Rodeo on October 13. Call Bernice at the PLUK office 255-0540 if you are interested.

"Blue Coupon Book" Now on Sale in Billings

PLUK is selling the Billings Area Preferred Savings Guide commonly call the "blue coupon book." The books sell for \$20.00 each and contain 285 coupons for fast food, area restaurants, stores, hotels, car washes, oil changes, etc. Buy one for yourself and extras for gifts.

If you are interested in purchasing a coupon book please contact Bernice at 255-0540.

SAVING THE SMART KIDS

"Are schools leaving the most gifted children behind if they don't allow them to skip ahead?" asks John Cloud. Americans don't seem to have any problem with teenagers who show genius in sports (LeBron James) or entertainment (Hilary Duff). But we have a deeply ambivalent relationship with intellectually gifted kids. Since it was signed in 2002, the No Child Left Behind law has focused attention on the kids who can't keep up, but research shows that gifted kids are also at risk. In a 2000 study for "Gifted Child Quarterly," Joseph Renzulli and Sunghee Park found that 5% of the 3,520 gifted students they followed dropped out after eighth grade. Astonishingly, that's almost as high as the 5.2% of nongifted kids who dropped out. Untold numbers of other highly intelligent kids stay in school but tune out. "When we ask exceptional children about their main obstacle, they almost always say it's their school," says Jan Davidson. "Their school makes them put in seat time, and they can't learn at their own ability level." It's impossible to say how many students who should be accelerated are kept with their age-mates, but more than 22,000 of the 87,000 seventh- and eighth-graders who take the SAT as part of talent-search

programs each year score at the level of college-bound seniors. "If they can do that kind of work, the typical curriculum is going to be way below their needs," says Nicholas Colangelo.

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1101040927-699423,00.html>

Opinion: A BROKEN PROMISE TO CHILDREN

One of the many lamentable things about this presidential campaign is how the real issues have been obscured in a sea of mud and deception. Exhibit A, writes Robert Kuttner, is education. For half the cost of the Iraq War or for less than half the cost of the Bush tax cuts, we could keep faith with America's schools and educate the next generation of at-risk kids. We could provide high-quality early education -- or paid parental leave -- so mothers (as well as fathers) forced to work full time would know that their children were safe and learning. Isn't this the sort of thing Americans should be debating?

http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2004/09/22/a_broken_promise_to_children/

CONFRONTING CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is harassing, humiliating, intimidating and/or threatening others on the Internet. Although the Internet is most often used for healthy social communications, teens are increasingly using the Internet to deliver cruel and harmful messages and photographs. Cyberbullying sometimes involves racial, religious or culture slurs. It can also be sexual in nature. It can involve someone your child knows or a complete stranger. Cyberbullying can include cruel jokes, malicious gossip, embarrassing information or photographs, and/or websites designed to target a specific child or teacher. Bullying is a widespread problem that has affected most of us at some point in our lives. It is especially difficult, even traumatic, for young people. Unfortunately, bullies have begun using the Internet as a means for reaching their victims at home via instant messaging, chat rooms, websites, and blogs. The MindOH! Foundation has created cyberbullying and other bullying resources for the victims of bullying, those who bully, and for bystanders. These activity worksheets are designed to help youth understand the full meaning and consequences of bullying, to reflect on the choices they are making with regard to this issue, and to explore ways of stopping online social cruelty.

<http://www.mindohfoundation.org/bullying.htm>

National Center for Learning Disabilities and Schwab Learning Release a Parent's Guide to "No Child Left Behind"

Guide Designed to Improve Academic Achievement for the Three Million School-Age Children with Learning Disabilities

New York, NY—Two national organizations, the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) and Schwab Learning, have collaborated to develop a handbook designed to provide simple, accessible information for parents on the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Making the "No Child Left Behind Act" Work for Children Who Struggle to Learn: A Parent's Guide, is available now at: <http://www.LD.org/NCLB> and <http://www.SchwabLearning.org/NCLB>.

"The need for parents of children with learning disabilities to understand how NCLB and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) work together has never been more urgent," says Jodell Seagrave, managing director of Schwab Learning, a nonprofit program of the Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation, which co-produced the guide with NCLD. "This guide has the potential to have a huge impact on the learning environments of children with disabilities."

http://ld.org/press/PR2004/NCLBGuide_0904.cfm

FREE TIP SHEETS FOR PARENTS

KSA-Plus Communications and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's ENLACE initiative have teamed up to present four new resources with advice on what parents can do at home and at school to help their children become successful learners. The new resources (in English and Spanish) include a parent primer on education in the United States (designed mainly for immigrant families), and tip sheets on testing, supplemental education services, and reading. These publications, as well as other parent-friendly resources, can be downloaded for free at:

<http://www.parents.ksaplus.com>

Paraeducator / Parent Stipends in Region III (Billings)

A limited number of stipends of \$50 each are available for paraeducators/parents in Region III from July 1, 2004—June 30, 2005. The stipends will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis, to paraprofessionals/parents attending professional development activities in the following areas: early childhood; positive behavior supports; reading, writing, and/or math; special education for general educators (strategies that are inclusionary); early childhood or post high school transitions; or paraeducator training. Applications must be received before the event occurs. Recipients will receive a letter confirming the approval of the stipend before the event. After the workshop, a completed W-9 form and a copy of the workshop certification of completion must be sent to Region III CSPD to receive payment.

For more information and to download an application, go to <http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/grants.htm>

Assistive Technology and Individuals with Learning Disabilities

On September 30 the EASI webcast about assistive technology for individuals with learning disabilities occurred. You may access the archive until October 7 at <http://easi.cc/archive/nobleld/nobleld.htm> until October 7 2004.

Ann Black, Director of the Special Education Technology Center in Washington mentioned a document on her website detailing steps for implementation of assistive technology to support reading and writing for learning disabled students. This is chock-full of good information.

<http://www.cwu.edu/~setc/ldtech/SequencedApproachReport.PDF>

Dance Class for Special Kids in Kalispell

The Academy of Performing Arts in Kalispell is offering a ballet/tap class for children with special needs Mondays at 4:30 PM. For information, contact the Academy at 755-0139.

PLUK trainings and activities planned for 2004-05

PLUK associate boards around the state are sponsoring a number of trainings and activities this coming year. Mark your calendar if you are interested in participating.

Go to <http://www.pluk.org/training> for more detailed information and registration.

Statewide Interactive Videoconferences


- October 12, 6-8pm, "The Process of Transition," airing from Helena
- November 9, 6-8pm, "Issues in Hearing and Vision," airing from Great Falls

Other Training Activities

- October 14, all-day workshop on "Bullying: What We Know and What We Can Do," with Marlene Snyder, Missoula
- October 18, all-day workshop on "Special Education in Montana," with Kathleen Manley Coburn, Kalispell
- November 1, all-day workshop on "Staying Cool When Our Buttons are Pushed," with Doug Cochran Roberts, Kalispell
- November 3, all-day workshop on Assistive Technology with Roger Holt, Bozeman
- November 10, all-day workshop on Assistive Technology with Roger Holt, Great Falls

Other Community Activities

- October 3-9, Theater Experience for Kids, Kalispell, contact Stephanie Luehr at 406/756-6159 Sponsored by the Flathead Valley Associate Board.
- October 8, Old Time Variety Show and Silent Auction, contact Val Burgan at 406/771-6011 Sponsored by the Great Falls Associate Board.
- October 26, Magical Tymes party, Missoula, contact Deborah Hayes Hyde at 406/543-8405 in conjunction with Missoula Children's Theatre production of Beauty and the Beast. Sponsored by the Missoula Associate Board.
- February 19, 2005, Sports & Recreation Festival, Rocky Mountain College Athletic Building, Billings. Contact Dennis Moore at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540. Sponsored by the Billings Associate Board.

- May 13, 2005, Kids at Heart Gala with a performance by the *Mid Life Chryslers*, Sheraton-Billings, call Dennis Moore at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540
Sponsored by the Billings Associate Board.
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Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana::

Session 1: Alternative Math Techniques-What To Do When Nothing Else Seems to Work, October 7, Missoula - October 8, Kalispell

Low-achieving students are often the least engaged in the learning taking place, especially when students, for whatever reason, don't respond to conventional methods of teaching. This workshop focuses on a collection of tips, advice, and new concepts to use with your struggling math students after everything else has failed. Topics included with the workshop will cover math concepts such as counting, distinguishing between odd and even numbers, telling time, and money skills, which help students learn to communicate mathematically.

To register or for further information please go to <http://www.cspd.net>.

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK, October 8-9 & November 5-6, MSU-Billings

MSU-Billings 2 credit course, SPED 493-593

Instructor: Ms. Terry Lankutis LankutisT@aol.com (406) 388-7831

Location: MSU-Billings Campus, Billings, MT

Dates: October 8-9, November 5-6, November 12-13

Registration Information: cpsinfo@msubillings.edu (406) 896-5890

Prerequisites: none

Course description

This course introduces IEP Team members to a student centered decision-making process used to identify individual student need for assistive technology. Many IEP teams are unsure how to address the issue of assistive technology in an IEP. By implementing this process, teams find they reach consensus, save money and struggling students find more success in the general education classes. Using case studies from their own situation, participants will

- 1) Learn the difference between assistive technology and instructional technology
- 2) Be introduced to the student centered decision-making process
- 3) Define assistive technology and IEP requirements
- 4) Identify local and national resources
- 5) Match individual student need to appropriate technology
- 6) Identify different types of non-tech, low tech and high tech as possible solutions for a target student

Groups of IEP team members and general educators are encouraged to attend. OPI renewal units are also available.

Customized Career Planning & Employment, October 18, Miles City, October 19, Glendive, October 20, MSU-Billings

These day-long sessions will introduce participants to the concept of customized employment and to the strategies of Discovery, Planning, and Job Negotiation. Parents, service providers, related services staff, teachers, paraprofessionals, students, and anyone interested in employment is invited to attend.

RSVP by October 7 to Ellen Condon at 888-648-7267 condon@ruralinstitute.umt.edu.

Workplace Accommodations: a seminar about employment, October 19, MSU-Billings

Sponsored by MSU-Billings, the Montana Center on Disabilities and the Rocky Mountain Disability and Technical Assistance Center. Register by October 13. Cost is free. Contact Brigid Haggerty for more information, 657-2312 bhagerty@msubillings.edu.

Lifespan Respite Training, October 19, Billings

Caregivers need a break for health and happiness. It is called respite. Trainings are held the third Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00 PM at the STEP office, 1501 14th St W, Ste 210. Trainings are offered for free and include a light lunch, but you must RSVP to Tami Haan at 896-3031.

October 19 – "Autism Spectrum Disorders," by Jessica Rago and Lori Gaustad

November 16 – "Prevention of Elder Abuse"

**SENSORY-INTEGRATION TOOL Kit for TEENS & SCHOOL-BASED SENSORY ASSESSMENT,
October 21, 22, Missoula**

Diane Henry – Missoula Participants will explore the sensory issues related to teenagers including the teen brain, sleep, thrill-seeking, hanging out and exploring alternative sensory tools to assist teens in healthy age-appropriate activities. Participants will also learn about school-based sensory assessments and their application in the school environment. Cosponsored with Montana OT/PT Organization.

Go to <http://www.cspd.net> for information and registration.

PARAEDUCATOR ACADEMIES, October 21-22, Missoula

Region 5 COTOP Trainers

October 21-22 Instructional Strategies, Orientation to Special Ed, Personal Growth- Missoula

Go to <http://www.cspd.net> for information and registration.

Quantum Learning for Teachers, October 21 & 22, Helena

8:00 AM to 3:30 PM at First Presbyterian Church; 535 N Ewing, Helena, MT

Quantum Learning is a synergistic approach to the learning process, integrating best educational practices and the latest in brain research into a unified whole. It has been proven to increase student achievement as well as improve student's attitudes toward learning. Teaches educators "how-to" facilitate the learning process, covering both theory and implementation. Includes a variety of practical teaching strategies, content delivery, curriculum design and learning skills.

For registration, contact Dorothy Millsop or Vaughn Kauffman at Prickly Pear Co-op, 406/227-7322; dmillsop@ehps.k12.mt.us. OPI renewal units will be available.

For information on the program, go to <http://www.quantumlearning.com/quantumlearninghm.html>.

Classroom Instruction That Works, October 21-22, Glendive at Dawson County High School

Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement

Presenting research findings of 9 broad teaching strategies that positively affect on student learning.

For more information, please contact Helen Murphy at 406-485-2143 (h) or dmurphy@midrivers.com

2004 MEA-MFT Educators' Conference, October 21-22, Helena

'Let the Light In: Teach a Child'

Registration information will be coming to MEA-MFT's K-12 local presidents after Labor Day.

For more information, go to: <http://www.mea-mft.org/edconf04.htm>.

**"HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?" 2004 Statewide Early Childhood Conference, October 21-23,
Hellgate Elementary School, Missoula**

This will be a three track conference for Early Care and Education Stakeholders, Parents, and K-3 Educators. An individual could earn as many as 23 hours of Training Credits, or Renewal Units, and some courses will be offering CEU's for those who desire college credits.

<http://www.mtaeyc.org/>

Parent Expo, October 23, Missoula

Parent Expo is an annual conference in Missoula that offers parents and community members an opportunity to attend workshops that help them strengthen their parenting skills and create positive learning environments in the home and family. Workshops are given by trained professionals.

In fall 2004, Parent Expo will be held in cooperation with the 2004 Montana Early Childhood Conference, which is scheduled Oct. 21-23 at Hellgate Elementary School. Both conferences are sponsoring keynote speaker Robin Karr-Morse on Friday evening, Oct. 22, at the University Center Theater. Parent Expo will be held Saturday, Oct. 23, at Sentinel High School.

The event will include three "micro-keynotes" in the high school theater, along with 10-12 smaller workshops in various classrooms throughout the day.

Registrants who have paid to attend the early childhood conference can attend Parent Expo workshops on Saturday, Oct. 23, at no cost.

In addition, spouses or family members who are in Missoula can attend both Friday's keynote lecture and Saturday's Parent Expo workshops for just \$8 (or just \$6 if attending only workshops on Saturday).

Child care is provided at no cost onsite to parents who attend Parent Expo workshops on Saturday. Children must be preregistered. No child care is available at Friday's Keynote lecture. Lunch will be for sale onsite during the Parent Expo on Saturday, Oct. 23.

The Expo is sponsored by MCPS Adult & Continuing Education, Families First, The Parenting Place, and Women's Opportunity and Resource Development, Inc.

Registration materials, including a list of workshops, will be available on Monday, Sept. 27, by calling Missoula County Public Schools at 406-728-2400, ext. 1024. You can also access registration materials online (in late September) at <http://www.mcps.k12.mt.us>. Workshops are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Addressing Behavior Problems in School and Home Environments, October 23, Kalispell

Billie Jo Davis, PH.D, BCBA is a nationally Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Currently, she works out of Coeur d'Alene, ID and travels throughout the Northwest and Canada working with schools and families designing behavioral and educational programs for children with autism spectrum disorders.

Participants will acquire skills that can be used to decrease problem behaviors in school and home environments.

This workshop is designed to teach parents and educators how to collect and analyze data in order to understand the causes of problem behaviors and design interventions to decrease problem behaviors. Lecture and small work groups will focus on the acquisition of strategies that are easy to use and implement.

For more information contact: davisbillie90@hotmail.com or (208) 699-2595.

WHAT'S NEW FROM INTELLITOOLS (Session I), October 26, Polson

Terry Lankutis- Polson- This workshop will provide an overview of the new products from IntelliTools. Persons attending this workshop will gain an understanding of the new Classroom Suite products from IntelliTools and how they compare to the previous products. They will also see examples of how to use these technology products in the general education classroom.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Guided Practice using IntelliTools Products (Session II), October 27-28, Polson

This two-day workshop is a continuation of Session I. Participants will share activities they have created for a student in their class. On the last day we will discuss ideas for implementing these products in a wide variety of curriculum areas as well as purchase options for those interested in wider implementation. Persons taking graduate credit are required to attend the "What's New from IntelliTools" session and both Sessions I & II of "Guided Practice using IntelliTools."

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Parent Support Group meeting in Kalispell October 28

All parents are invited to the Summit in Kalispell October 28 at 7pm. Future meeting will be November 18th. For information, contact Stephanie at 756-6159.

Person Centered Planning, November 3-5, Butte

The Developmental Disabilities Program and Department of Public Health & Human Services is sponsoring a three-day person-centered planning workshop November 3-5 at the Copper King in Butte.

For more information, contact Perry Jones, pjones@state.mt.us 406/444-5662, or Sandi Cory, scory@state.mt.us 406/444-2995.

Sensory Integration Tool Kit Workshop, November 5-6, Billings

Using Occupational Therapy strategies to promote sensory integration in the classroom and home.

This workshop facilitates the use of occupational therapy strategies to promote sensory integration in classrooms and homes. All educators, administrators, therapists, social nurses, and parents are encouraged to attend as a team.

For information/registration, contact Pam at STEP, 248-2055. You may also register online at <http://www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister/>.

Asperger Syndrome Support Group, November 11, Billings

Anyone whose life is affected by Asperger Syndrome is invited to attend these meetings. Meetings are scheduled for November 11, January 13, March 10 and May 12 at 7:00 PM. Meetings take place at: 17th Street Station, 1648 Poly Drive, Billings. Contact Valerie at 245-1770 or Paula at 248-6186 for information.

Region III CSPD: Differentiated Instruction Workshops, November 16 & 17, Billings; November 18, Lewistown

Presented by Rick Wormeli, a practicing middle school teacher who brings innovation, validity and high standards to both his presentations and his instructional practice, which includes years of teaching math, science, English, and history.

For information, go to <http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/>.

Focus on Decoding: REWARDS, November 29, Kalispell Focus on Decoding: REWARDS, November 30, Missoula

Many students falter in reading at the middle school level because they have not learned strategies to use in decoding longer words. This lack of advanced decoding ability affects fluency, comprehension and vocabulary achievement. This session will teach participants to use REWARDS, a multi-syllabic decoding program that has been well documented as an effective remedial strategy for students in grade 4-12.

The trainer, Dr. Feldman is the Director of Reading and Early Intervention with the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), Leadership Team Consultant for the California Reading and Literature Project and Independent Consultant in the area of PreK- 12 Literacy.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Guided Practice using IntelliTools Products – Part 2, December 1-2, Polson

This two-day workshop is a continuation of Part 1. Participants will share activities they have created for a student in their class. On the last day we will discuss ideas for implementing these products in a wide variety of curriculum areas as well as purchase options for those interested in wider implementation.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Ideas! Ideas! Ideas! The Teacher's Toolbox for Differentiating Instruction, January 18, 2005, Missoula - January 19, 2005, Kalispell

This session is filled with strategies, tips, tools, and techniques that are both highly effective and extremely practical in helping your students succeed. Specific strategies will help your students get organized, be accountable for results, compensate for difficulties and improve reading, writing, and math skills. Effective tools for positive behavior and building self-confidence will also be included. The focus is on high expectations and high standards for all students while differentiating instruction to meet the needs of diverse learners. The strategies suggested are time-efficient for the teacher and highly effective for students. This session is designed to include ideas for all content areas and will benefit general educators and special educators as well as paraeducators, other school support staff and administrators. These are the "nuts and bolts" strategies that you will take back and use immediately!

Session 2: Managing the Mathematics Classroom, February 3, 2005, Missoula - February 4, 2005, Kalispell

Managing a classroom so that time on task and student engagement in math are maximized is an art. Potential problems in the classroom involve motive and opportunity. You remove motive by keeping all students engaged, remove opportunity through careful planning and management of manipulatives and groups. This workshop focuses on how to organize and manage cooperative groups along with differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all learners. Effective management maximizes learning and minimizes behavior problems.

To register or for further information please go to <http://www.cspd.net>.

Effective Reading Interventions, February 22, 2005, Missoula - February 23, 2005, Kalispell

This is the second of a series of three workshops that focuses on specific research-based strategies and materials for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Working with Angry and Resistant Youth: Strategies for Fostering Hope and Resilience, March 1, 2005, Polson

This presentation focuses on factors that contribute to the creation of a positive school climate for both students and staff. Dr Brooks discusses these factors by outlining the key dimensions of the mindset of effective educators and other professionals including an appreciation of: (a) empathy and exercises to promote empathy, (b) our own memories of school as guideposts for what we do today, (c) the lifelong impact we have on children and adolescents, (d) the mindset of resilient youth, (e) the components of motivation, (f) the importance of a strength-based approach that identifies and reinforces each student's "islands of competence," and (g) specific interventions for fostering motivation, learning, self-discipline, self-esteem, cooperation, caring, hope, and resilience in students. Strategies will be shared for professionals and parents about how to strengthen their own "stress hardiness" so as to be less stressed and more effective in working with or raising these challenging youth.

Dr. Brooks is a clinical psychologist and faculty member at the Harvard Medical School. He also serves as an advisory board member of the Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder (CHADD). His most notable publication is *The Self-Esteem Teacher*. He spends most of his time conducting motivation, resilience, and self-esteem workshops nationally and internationally.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Montana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference, April 13-15, 2005, Billings

<http://www.mtcec.org/conference.htm>

**Step Up to Writing- A Key to Academic Success, April 25-26, 2005, Missoula
Step Up to Writing- A Key to Academic Success, April 27-28, 2005, Kalispell**

Step Up to Writing is a writing program which makes a dramatic difference in student success. This two-day workshop is designed for teachers who want to help struggling students learn to communicate in an organized and effective manner. Participants will leave the workshop with a wealth of strategies which motivate students as they significantly increase their academic success.

The trainer, Neilia Solberg, B.A., is a Step Up to Writing consultant for Sopris West Educational Services. Included in her years of teaching are elementary school and staff development in the language arts and content reading. Recent experience in Academic Achievement plans across the curriculum and grade levels as well as expanded responsibilities in coordinating instruction development.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Session 3: Getting Students Past the "Gatekeeper" Courses in Math-Creating Success in Pre-Algebra and Algebra, May 5, 2005, Missoula - May 6, 2005, Kalispell

Effective instruction, especially at the middle school level, is a critical component for laying the foundation for higher level mathematics. This one-day workshop focuses on the "big picture" concepts and those topics necessary for algebra success. By tackling the important topics and modeling the "big picture" concepts for students, teachers and students can "tear down" these roadblocks to algebra success.

To register or for further information please go to <http://www.cspd.net>.

Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ART, EDUCATION AND DISABILITY, October 10-13, New York

Sponsored by VSA arts and held in New York, New York. For more information go to: <http://www.vsarts.org/programs/institute/index.cfm>

Series on Cortical Visual Impairment beginning October 8, Webcast

Cortical Visual Impairment (or Cerebral Visual Impairment, CVI) is now the leading cause of vision impairment in very young children in the United States. It is a very complex vision disorder that is just beginning to be understood. Dr. Lea Hyvarinen, a world renowned pediatric ophthalmologist from Helsinki, Finland, has been working in diagnosis, evaluation and therapeutic interventions with young children with CVI. During this six-part Internet series, Dr. Hyvarinen will use lecture, PowerPoint visuals and videoclips.

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She will discuss how she evaluates a child with CVI, how she comes to understand the child's use of vision, and the interventions she uses to help the child learn to use vision for communication, orientation and movement, daily living skills, and sustained near vision tasks (e.g., reading).

Dr. Hyvarinen's lectures on CVI have been filmed and prerecorded at Utah State University. Each lecture will be posted on the website and made available for viewing starting on the dates and times listed below. Each lecture will remain posted on the Internet for the duration of the series and can be viewed at any time-assuring they can be viewed at times convenient to each participant. PowerPoint slides used by Dr. Hyvarinen during each lecture will be posted on the website so that participants may view/print them as desired.

- General Features and Symptoms of CVI, Friday, Oct 8, 2004 10 am Mountain Standard Time (MST), 1 hour
- Lecture 2: Pathways, Friday, Oct 15, 10 am MST, 1 hour
- Lecture 3: Visual Acuity and Contrast Sensitivity, Oct 22, 10 am MST, 1 hour
- Lecture 4: Visual Field and Spatial Awareness, Nov 5, 10 am MST, 1 hour
- Lecture 5: Vision for Communication, Nov 12, 10 am MST, 1 hour
- Session 6: Question/Answers, Nov 19, 10 am MST, 1 1/2 hours

For information/registration, go to <http://www.ksar.usu.edu/leacvi/>.

Seizures & Epilepsy Education (S.E.E.), October 16-17, Idaho Falls, ID

For persons with epilepsy, family members, and parents of children with epilepsy in Idaho, Montana, Utah, & Wyoming

Only one patient and family education program in the U.S. has been shown in a Class I study to result in long term medical, psychological, and social benefits for persons who attend. Seizures & Epilepsy Education (S.E.E.) began 21 years ago as a part of the UCLA Comprehensive Epilepsy Program. S.E.E. has since grown to be national and international in scope. Over 20,000 people have attended S.E.E. presentations in four countries.

For more information, call 800 397-3605 or visit <http://www.theseeprogram.com>.

Closing the Gap, October 21-23, Minneapolis MN

Pre-conference sessions October 19-20

Closing The Gap's Annual Conference has an international reputation as a leading source for information on innovative applications of computer technology for persons with disabilities. The 2004 Conference builds on a tradition of providing a comprehensive examination of the most current uses of technology by persons with disabilities and the professionals who work with them.



Topics will cover a broad spectrum of technology as it is being applied to all disabilities and age groups in education, rehabilitation, vocation, and independent living. People with disabilities, special educators, rehabilitation professionals, administrators, service/care providers, personnel managers, government officials, and hardware/software developers will share their experiences and insights at what has become known as the most significant networking experience of the year -- the annual Closing The Gap Conference.

<http://www.closingthegap.com/conf/>

Dare to Dream for Adults, October 28, Teleconference

Thursday, October 28, 2004

2:00-3:00 p.m. Central Time

(9 a.m. Hawaii, 12 noon Pacific, 1 p.m. Mountain, 3 p.m. Eastern)

Dr. Webb is the co-author of Dare to Dream, a strength-based book designed to encourage young adults and adults with disabilities to make choices and find options that are aligned with their preferences, abilities, and needs.

Dare to Dream for Adults is designed to be used either independently by an individual with a disability or with the support of a facilitator (teacher, service provider, family member, friend). Dr. Webb will discuss the components of Dare to Dream (e.g., choosing employment or postsecondary education, building relationships, managing finances) and how it can be used to assist young adults and adults with disabilities develop self-determination skills.

Access Dare to Dream for Adults here (PDF, 206 pages):

http://www.firn.edu/doe/commhome/pdf/dream_adults.pdf

Presented by:

Kris Web, Ph.d

Associate Professor

Department of Special Education

University of North Florida

Instructions for Participation

Dialing In: Dial 703-639-1366 a few minutes before the call begins, and refer to the "NCSET Teleconference Call" if asked by the operator. During the call, if using a speakerphone, please press the mute button when listening. The only cost to you is the long distance fee to the 703 area code. You do not need to RSVP to participate in this call.

What to Expect: The first 30-45 minutes of the call consists of the speakers' presentation. Participants are then given the opportunity to ask questions.

Speaker Phones: To limit static noise, please press the mute button when listening.

Transcript Announced via E-News: The transcript of this call will be available a few weeks after the date of this call from the Transcripts Page (<http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences/transcripts/default.asp>). If you sign up for NCSET's E-News you will receive an e-mail announcement that the transcript is available, and you'll also get lots of information about other NCSET and national resources such as upcoming events, publications and electronic resources, funding opportunities, and more. It's free, and you can remove yourself from the list at any time. You can sign up at

<http://www.ncset.org/eneews/eneewsSignup.asp?hit1>.

<http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences/default.asp>

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum and Related Neurobehavioral Disorders, October 28-29, Riverside CA

Sponsored by Arc Riverside, California Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Organization and Arc California

Titled "On the FAS Track to Understanding," the conference will educate attendees about the characteristics, needs and diagnoses of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Who: Service providers in the health, social service, mental health, addictions treatment, education, and criminal justice systems should attend, as well as people and families living with this devastating disorder.

What: Attendees will learn about the barriers to services, interventions and practices that are known to be most effective. Attendees will also learn how to prevent "secondary disabilities" and prevent FASD itself. Finally participants will understand the heart of the issues by hearing personal experiences of individuals with FASD and their families.

Where and When: Join us at the Riverside Convention Center in Riverside California on October 28th and 29th 2004. The host hotel for this conference is the Riverside Marriott.

Invited speakers include: Ed Riley, David Boulding, Susan Doctor, Diane Malbin, Susan Carlson, Kathy Mitchell, Teresa Kellerman, Deb Evenson, Kay Kelly, and Stephen Neafcy

Fee: The Early Bird registration fee for attendees is \$150, before September 30th, 2004.

http://www.arcriverside.org/fs_pressrelease.html

ICDL Eighth International Conference, November 3-7—DC Metro Area

The Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders conference "Autism and Disorders of Relating and Communications, Reversing the Core Deficits: Progress and New Directions"

When: Preconference Workshops November 3-4, Conference November 5-7

Where: Hilton Mclean, Tysons Corner, Virginia (Washington, DC Metro Area)

Registration: \$295-\$430

Mail all registration details and payments to:

ICDL, 4938 Hampden Lane, Suite 800, Bethesda, MD 20814

For more information and Preconference details, please visit <http://www.icdl.com>.

Contemporary Issues in ADD/ADHD, November 4-7, Teleconference

The objective for this FREE On-line Seminar & Teleconference is to present what the correct body of scientific literature tells us is happening in the brain of a child or adult with ADD/ADHD. There are chemical imbalances, and there are a wide array of pharmacological and behavioral interventions used in the treatment of ADD/ADHD, once a differential diagnosis is made. All of these issues and more will be addressed in this Web-based interactive symposium.

Register at: http://www.eparent.com/web_seminar_add_adhd/

"Assistive Technology and Accessible Media in Higher Education", November 9 –12, Boulder, CO

<http://www.colorado.edu/ATconference>

The conference is presently seeking proposals and intends addressing:

- The beneficial implementation of Assistive Technology in post-secondary education for individuals with
 - physical, sensory, and learning disabilities;
 - ADA and Section 508 compliance; and
- Accessible university information, web, library, and media resources and services.

"This conference is intended for disability service providers in the post secondary setting, Assistive Technologists, faculty, Web designers and programmers interested in accessibility, special educators, college administrators responsible for legal policy related to disability and accommodation, rehabilitation counselors and persons with disabilities."

<http://www.colorado.edu/ATconference/coverview2004.html>

Kathy Martinez, Deputy Director of the World Institute on Disabilities, will be the keynote speaker. She is internationally recognized for her work with employment, gender and minority disability rights issues. Martinez oversees the National Technical Assistance Center for Latinos with Disabilities, and the NIDDR funded International Disability Exchanges and Studies (IDEAS) for the New Millennium Project.

TASH Conference 2004, November 18-20, Reno NV

The TASH conference is one of the largest and most progressive international conferences to focus on model, innovative, and effective strategies for achieving full inclusion of people with disabilities. This invigorating conference brings together some of the best hearts and minds in the disability movement with several hundred presenters and features over 450 breakout sessions, exhibits, roundtable discussions, poster sessions and much more, jam-packed with info. It provides a forum for individuals with disabilities, families, researchers, administrators, educators, scholars, and others to create dialogue and action for social and systems reform. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend a conference with over 2500 other people from around the world (15 nations last time) which showcases national and local achievement and brings a global perspective to the community on issues of importance in the lives of people with disabilities and their families. For renewing the spirit, lifting the heart, and challenging the mind:



For more information and call for papers: <http://www.tash.org/>

Some of the more than 40 topics at the TASH Conference will focus on the following themes:

- Building Partnerships & Relationships, Communication
- Inclusive Education Across the Lifespan
- Transition, Community Living & Employment
- Diversity, Values, Equality, Advocacy & Ethics
- Quality of Life

Third National Symposium on Dispute Resolution in Special Education, December 2-4, Washington DC

CADRE will convene the Third National Symposium on Dispute Resolution in Special Education at the Academy for Educational Development in Washington, D.C. from December 2-4, 2004. As we get nearer to the event we'll provide you with additional details about the agenda and other logistics.

For some limited additional information, click here:

http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/2004_conference.cfm.

Learning Disabilities Association 42nd Annual International Conference on Learning Disabilities, March 2-5, 2005—Reno, NV

The largest learning disabilities conference in the world is coming to Reno, Nevada, and bringing more than 300 workshops and exhibits. Topics include: adult issues; medical research; health issues; workshops on early childhood, reading, classroom strategies; and NIFL "Bridges to Practice."

When: March 2-5, 2005

Where: Nugget Hotel, Reno

Registration: \$75-\$230

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Contact: <http://www.lidaamerica.org>

Autism One Conference, May 26-29, 2005, Chicago IL

<http://autismone.org/homepage.cfm>

RESNA's 28th International Conference on Technology & Disability, June 25-27, Atlanta GA

Research, Design, Practice, and Policy

Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA

- Pre-Conference Instructional Courses: June 23-24, 2005
- Full Conference Workshops: June 25-27, 2005

RESNA takes the 2005 Conference to Atlanta, GA, where assistive technology's leading researchers, renowned clinicians, and policy experts will create a conference program with unmatched levels of knowledge and expertise. RESNA presenters and attendees will experience a surprisingly intimate conference environment where:

- information is contemporary and innovative
- uncommon questions find in-depth answers
- sharing knowledge, ideas, and experiences is easy, and
- new connections last a lifetime.

How you can participate: Obtain proposal kits at <http://www.resna.org> and submit a proposal for a workshop or Instructional Course or Download an author kit and submit a paper for inclusion in the Interactive Poster Sessions or one of the student competitions!

Selected Sources::

1. Monday Morning in Washington, DC, <http://www.inclusionresearch.org>
2. Rocky Mountain DBTAC, <http://www.adainformation.org>
3. PEN Weekly NewsBlast <http://www.publiceducation.org>
4. The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar <http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm>
5. Technology for Nonprofits: <http://www.techsoup.org>

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Mission Statement: Parent's Let's Unite for Kids unites parents, professionals, families and friends of children with special needs to support one another, and share information for the benefit of their children.

Vision Statement: Given information and support, individuals with disabilities and their families will feel empowered to advocate for themselves and participate fully in educational and community opportunities.

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