



Bridging the Gap

The newsletter of

Regional and Statewide Services for Students with Orthopedic Impairments

December • 2004

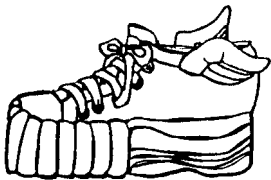
VIEW from the BRIDGE

— *Diana Roberts*

TIES CONFERENCE • APRIL 18 & 19, 2005

Are you ready to be a TIES Presenter? Now is the time to let us know! The Therapy in Educational Settings (TIES) Conference is scheduled for April 18 & 19 at the Valley River Inn in Eugene and Presenter Proposal forms are included with this newsletter. Share your excitement about a methodology, a strategy, a resource, or a new aspect of team process you're trying. Make a follow-up report on something you've implemented from last year's TIES conference. Lead a "Cracker Barrel" discussion on a topic or issue that you're inspired to tackle. Breakout sessions are 1-1/2 hours in the morning and 1 hour in the afternoon. One presenter

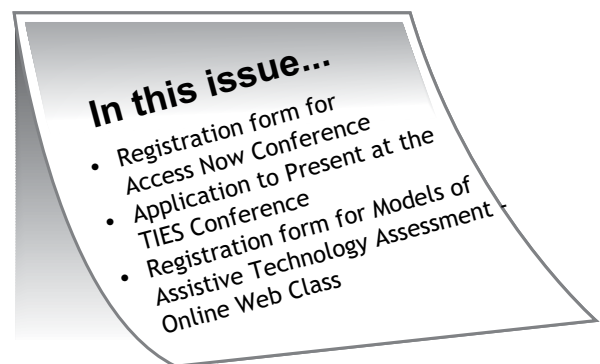
from each session has conference registration fees waived. Use the enclosed Presenter Proposal form to tell us what you have in mind!



This year's TIES keynote speaker will be Teri Brogdon, MA, from Project Participate at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center presenting "Strategies for Active Inclusion". The Project Participate develops and promotes strategies for increasing active participation of students with disabilities in educational activities,

emphasizing team collaboration and use of appropriate technology. Teri will be sharing practical strategies, tools and tips in a stimulating, interactive format. Go to www.projectparticipate.org to access their project's outstanding website. Registration materials will be available on the RSOI website and in the February issue of Bridging the Gap.

Also in this issue, you'll find registration materials for the annual Access Now: Technology for People with Special Needs Conference. Scheduled for February 7 & 8, at the Holiday Inn Express, in Wilsonville, the theme of this year's conference is "Universal Design for Learning: Access for All Students". For more information, see the flyer enclosed with this newsletter!



Regional and Statewide Services for Students with Orthopedic Impairments • RSOI
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The Strategies Exchange

The Douglas ESD's Program for Orthopedically Impaired (POI), in Roseburg, has for many years used a unique model of service delivery. OTs and PTs in the program work as team with a cadre of Consulting Teachers, who provide service coordination for students who are enrolled in their home districts. When a student is referred for OT, PT or Consulting Nurse services, the Consulting Teacher does an initial screening. The screening involves collecting available educational and medical information about the child, interventions that have been tried, and the specific issues that have triggered the referral. The screening is then reviewed by the team to determine educational relevance and next steps. When a student is found eligible for POI services, the Consulting Teachers provide service coordination, consultation and other supports to the school and family. While the level of therapy services for each

child is individualized, in many cases the Consulting Teacher becomes the primary point of contact, with the OT or PT providing evaluation, planning, monitoring and consultation as needed. Collaborative commu-



nication in regularly scheduled team meetings is supplemented by email and telephone consultation to keep everyone on the team updated about the child's progress. Constituent school districts annually report a high level of satisfaction with the service model and request that it be continued as a resolution service.

Between visits, POI therapists appreciate being able to monitor students on their caseloads through the eyes and ears of the Consulting Teachers.

Send your favorite strategies to Diana Roberts at diana.roberts@douglasesd.k12.or.us

NEW IN THE RSOI LIBRARY

FEEDBACK FORMS!

We're implementing something new in the library this fall. With each item we send out, we're enclosing a simple form to enable you to give us feedback on our library services. You can also use the form to make suggestions about books, videos, or other media which you would like us to add to the collection. Just fill out the form and enclose it when you return the borrowed item. We promise to pay attention to any and all feedback to help us make the loan library a helpful resource.

CLARIFICATION ON TRAMPOLINE USE

In the last issue of *Bridging the Gap*, we ran an article about the prohibition of trampoline use in educational programs. Some insurance carriers are refusing to provide coverage in case of accidents. Several readers requested more information about the origin of the prohibition against trampolines. We called OSBA-Pact, the insurer for 135 school districts and at least 9 ESDs in Oregon. We were told that most insurers no longer cover trampoline use in any setting, due to the high number of claims resulting from their increased popularity in recent years. However, OSBA-Pact will issue an endorsement to a district's insurance plan permitting the use of mini-trampolines, "when used by a trained Physical or Occupational therapist, or someone trained by a PT or OT, in a controlled environment". A therapist must make a written request for the endorsement, specifying this specific use. The endorsement then becomes part of the district's policy. All other terms and conditions of the policy remain unchanged. To request an endorsement, you are directed to contact your district's insurance agent.

Other insurance companies have told districts that their insurance excludes all sizes of trampolines and any other rebounding equipment. Mini-trampolines are no longer used in those districts. Check with your district insurance carriers to ensure that use of trampolines is covered before using trampolines of any size with students.

'OREGON PROJECT' TARGETS EPILEPSY

Easter Seals Oregon has been awarded a three-year, \$750,000 grant to launch a state wide initiative called the 'Oregon Project' to help detect and treat Epilepsy among children and adolescents who reside in medically underserved areas. This grant, made available by the US Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Health Resources & Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, seeks to improve access to comprehensive, coordinated health care and related services for children and

adolescents with Epilepsy, and is directed towards medically underserved populations.

Easter Seals Oregon partnered with Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU), Child Development & Rehabilitation Center, and Title V - Children with Special Healthcare Needs, Oregon Medical Home Network; and Oregon Primary Care Association and 16 associated federally qualified health clinics to collaborate on this project. Pediatric Neurologist Dr. James R.

Schimschock, and Mr. Robert Shook, Director of Easter Seals Oregon Children's Guild, will lead the Oregon Project, with Epilepsy Program Coordinators in Medford, Salem, and Portland.

Oregon has been awarded this contract for the management of epilepsy in children based on a long and rich history in research, program development, and community outreach education on behalf of people with epilepsy. Oregon Project will build on that experience by improving health care

access, vigorously promoting accurate diagnosis of causation of childhood seizures, and by training providers and paramedical personnel in the appropriate evaluation and initial management of children with epilepsy.

For more information on the Oregon Project, contact: Robert Shook, Director, Children's Guild, Easter Seals Oregon, 503-485-5733, rshook@or.easterseals.com.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- DIANA ROBERTS



Question: What are the timelines for implementation of Accommodations listed on an IEP?

Response: Accommodations, Modifications and other services must be in place by the starting date for the Accommodations or services listed on the IEP. If the start date for a service has passed and the service is not in place, the district is out of compliance. When the IEP team members identify a service or support that is needed in order for a student to benefit from his special education program, they are free to determine when it will be implemented. The beginning date for the service does not have to be the day the IEP is signed. When a time lapse is anticipated, it is permissible to list on the IEP the date the team anticipates that the service or support will be in place. In the case of a device, a piece of equipment or other item which



must be ordered or fabricated, the team is free to list their best guess as to when the device will be in use. Of course, it is imperative that the person the team identifies as responsible for implementing the service follows through to assure that the service or support is available and in use by the date specified. When an Accommodation is to be tried for a trial period, starting and ending dates for that trial period may be listed. If the Accommodation is later implemented as a permanent part of the child's program, the IEP should be revised to reflect the date that regular use of the device will begin. If for some reason, the Accommodation is not in place by the time specified on the IEP, the team should decide how the omission is to be addressed and revise the plan or the IEP accordingly.

Please send your "Frequently Asked Questions" to Diana Roberts at diana.roberts@douglasesd.k12.or.us

Coming Events

Winter 2005

HOW DOES YOUR ENGINE RUN? THE ALERT PROGRAM FOR SELF-REGULATION •

January 29 & 30, 2005 • *Doubletree Guest Suites, Seattle, WA*. Presented by Sherry Shellenberger and Mary Sue Williams. Conference fee is \$295. Group rate is \$250 per person. Download the registration form at www.AlertProgram.com, or contact Therapy Works, Inc. at 505-897-3478.

FEEDING OUR CHILDREN: IT'S NOT AS EASY AS IT USED TO BE • February 5, 2005 - 9:00 AM to Noon • *Providence Portland Medical Center, Amphitheater, 4805 NE Glisan Street, Portland, OR*. Presenters: Connie Warner, MSRD and Kirti Raol, MSRD. Sponsored by the Parent Training and Information Network (PTI). For additional information, contact the Swindells Center at: 503-215-2429, or toll-free, 800-833-8899, ext. 52429, or email swindells@providence.org.

ACCESS NOW: TECHNOLOGY FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CONFERENCE • February 7 & 8, 2005 • *Holiday Inn, Wilsonville, OR*. Registration materials included with this newsletter. Contact OTAP at 541-440-4791 or see www.otap-oregon.org.

FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME DISORDERS: INTO ACTION • March 3-5, 2005 • *Mark Spencer Hotel, 409 SW 11th Ave., Portland, OR*. Presented by Diane V. Malbin, MSW, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Consultation, Education and Training Services (FASCETS), Inc. Registration fee \$325. For information contact Wendy Temko, 503-621-1271.

“WORKING WITH PARENTS”: OPTA SPRING CONFERENCE • March 12 & 13, 2005 • *Salishan Resort, Gledan Beach, OR*. Keynote Speaker: Vickie Mead. Contact the Oregon Physical Therapy Association at 503-262-9247 for information or check their website at www.opta.org

TIES CONFERENCE: THERAPY IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS • April 18 & 19, 2005 • *Valley River Inn, Eugene, OR*. Keynote: Teri Brogdon, University of Colorado Health Science Center, "Strategies for Active Inclusion - Project Participate." Call for Presenters and application included with this newsletter. Materials available February 1, 2005. For more information, call 541-440-4791 or check our website www.rsoi.org.

CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL ISSUES IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS • May 5 & 6, 2005 • *Embassy Suites Hotel, Tigard, OR*. Hosted by Oregon Services for Children with Special Health Needs (OSCSHN), Child Development Rehabilitation Center (CDRC). Estimated cost will be \$90 for one day or \$120 for both days. Contact Charlotte Schley at schleyc@ohsu.edu.

