



Bridging the Gap

The newsletter of

Regional and Statewide Services for Students with Orthopedic Impairments

October • 2006

Rona Alexander, Ph.D., SLP, Keynote Presenter at Seminar for Feeding Teams

VIEW from the BRIDGE

— Diana Roberts

We're very excited to announce our keynote speaker for this year's annual *Seminar for Feeding Teams*, scheduled for December 4 and 5, at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville. In response to the many requests we've received over the years, we've invited Dr. Rona Alexander, Ph.D., SLP from Wisconsin, to present an day-long session on the first day of the conference. Her presentation is titled, "Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing: the Essentials". Dr. Alexander is a certified Speech Language Pathologist specializing in the assessment and treatment of feeding disorders in children of all developmental levels, including infants. She is nationally recognized for her contributions to the field of pediatric feeding. In addition to her private practice, teaching and speaking schedule, Dr. Alexander has authored two books as well as numerous chapters and articles.

In her keynote presentation, Dr. Alexander will discuss feeding and swallowing mechanics, the clinical assessment, considerations for addressing oral-motor and respiratory coordination as well as mealtime carryover activities. Her focus for the afternoon will be on goals and strategies for mealtime feeding in the educational setting.

Day two of the Seminar will include breakout sessions on training unlicensed staff and coaching families to implement feeding programs, a panel discussion on the role of the speech-language pathologist on the feeding team, plus an interactive session on team process, featuring a case study by the Beaverton Feeding Team.

We hope to see you there! Registration materials are enclosed with this newsletter and are available online at www.rsoi.org.

RSOI Offers Consultation Workshops

At RSOI, we are often asked for resources on how OT's and PT's can be certain they are using consultation effectively in the practice of therapy in educational settings. In 2004, with a recommendation from the OI Working Group, the Regional Management Team asked RSOI to develop a comprehensive set of training materials and information about school therapy consultation. In particular we were asked for a resource that would visually illustrate the consultation process as it is applied in school-based practice.

A subcommittee of the working group worked together to research and develop a consultation model. The "Six Stages Model" outlines the six essential elements of effective consultation.

Now, with a grant from the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, RSOI is pleased to announce completion of a training video illustrating the model. -The 20-minute video DVD is accompanied by a CD of supporting materials, including discussion questions, a planning form, a self-assessment and a Power Point presentation.

This school year, RSOI will offer regional workshops utilizing the new video and materials in trainings for motor teams throughout the state.

Copies of the training set will be available to all districts and Regional programs in Oregon. Contact Diana Roberts at 541-957-4834 for a copy of the DVD/CD package or to schedule a workshop for your staff.

Regional and Statewide Services for Students with Orthopedic Impairments • RSOI

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Revised OREST Now In Use

The Oregon Regional Eligibility Screening Tool (OREST) is the severity scale used by occupational and physical therapists to evaluate students for eligibility for services from the Regional OI Programs. The Regional programs provide OT's and PT's in each region who have special expertise to help school districts to appropriately serve their students with severe orthopedic impairments. Use of the OREST helps to insure consistency of services and equity in allocating Regional dollars across state. Last year, the OI Working Group worked with the Department of Education to revise and update the OREST. The "new, improved" OREST includes several significant changes. Most notably, the Services Needed section has been deleted from the screening tool. IEP/IFSP teams seeking guidance on decision-making about services for students who are found regionally eligible are encouraged to utilize the "Service Needs Checklists" available on the RSOI website. This change focuses the OREST exclusively on the functional skills of the child to determine Regional eligibility. A second change in the OREST is the addition of "Degenerative Condition" to the rating scale. Also, guidance has been added about the use of the OREST under the provisions of IDEA '04 with regard to evaluation.

The revised OREST is now in use, and should be utilized for any new evaluations for regional OI eligibility. Students who are currently eligible for Regional OI services remain eligible until the time of their next 3-year reevaluation. As with any evaluation, Parent Consent is required before evaluating a child using the OREST. Old copies of the OREST should be destroyed or recycled. Individual copies of the revised OREST may be obtained from the RSOI office at 541-440-4791, or downloaded from the website at www.rsoi.org.

"Use of Occupational Therapy Aides:" Update from OT Licensing Board

From Felecia Holgate, Occupational Therapy Licensing Board, September 6, 2006:

In 2004 the Oregon Occupational Therapy Licensing Board had in its strategic plan the need for reviewing the rules regarding Occupational Therapists using "aides". A committee was formed, rules from other states and AOTA rules were reviewed and the Board considered the newly drafted rule regarding "Use of Aides". The proposed rule was sent to all Occupational Therapists asking for comments. There were comments received asking how the draft would affect occupational therapists working in schools. The Board then added a sentence at the end to take care of the issues that came up. The new rule, ORS 339-010-0055, includes the following addenda, "These rules do not apply to school aides and occupational therapists working in school settings. The rules on aides in the education setting are found in OAR 339-010-0050." The final rule, which will now be adopted under the Administrative Rules Procedures to become a permanent rule, will soon be available on the Oregon OT Licensing Board website at <http://www.oregon.gov/OTLB/index.shtml>.

Electronic Newsletter Option

Would you like to receive *Bridging the Gap* electronically? If so, please send your current email address to Terry at the RSOI office at terry.christenson@douglasesd.k12.or.us. Three times per year, you'll receive a notice in your email box with a link to the newsletter posted as a PDF on our website. Be sure to let us know right away if you want to receive future newsletters by email!

JOB OPENINGS!

Interested in position openings in Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy, EI, ECSE and school-aged Special Education programs in Oregon? *For information contact Diana Roberts at 541-957-4834.*

NEW IN THE RSOI LIBRARY

RESOURCES FROM TIES 2006 KEYNOTE SPEAKER, MARTI SMITH, OTR/L:

"PVC for Rehab Professionals", 2006. In her "PT and OT on a Shoestring Budget" presentation at TIES, Marti discussed many ways to use PVC to build inexpensive adaptive equipment. In this book, Marti shares some of the patterns for her favorite and most useful designs, from slant boards, to body blades, therapy ball racks, ROM sticks, and walkers. **Item # 546**

"Switching to Accessibility", 2006. In this approximately two hour DVD, Marti demonstrates how to adapt a variety of toys and appliances to make them switch-accessible.

Demonstration is provided to enable the viewer to follow along to make a battery interrupter, adapt a simple button toy into a switch-ready toy, adapt a touch light into an on/off switch or a "Big Red" type of switch, and discover the ease of remote control wall switches. **Item #550**

"Handwriting Helpers: A Workbook for Teachers and Therapists", 2004. This 150+ page manual addresses academic standards and developmental milestones, with reproducible worksheets and practice papers to increase motivation and improve handwriting skills for all types of learners. The book also contains a variety of creative worksheets for practicing visual perceptual skills. Accompanied by a CD for easy, inexpensive, color reproduction. **Item #547**

RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL THERAPY PRACTICE:

"The New IDEA: An Occupational Therapy Toolkit". AOTA Press, 2006. An interactive CD training tool and reference guide for OT's and educators. Resources and links include AOTA analyses and implications for practice. **Item #556**

"Pediatric Issues in Occupational Therapy: A Compendium of Leading Scholarship", AOTA Press, 2003. This compilation of research from the American Journal of Occupational Therapy (2000-2003) covers topics such as handwriting, motor skills, sensory issues, play, autism, physical disability, etc. **Item #557**

"Practical Considerations for School-Based Occupational Therapists", AOTA Press, 2004. A book-and-CD set of resources for efficient, best practice services. CD includes selected forms and questionnaires. **Item # 558**

"The Consulting Therapist: A Guide for OT's and PT's in Schools", Barbara Hanft, OTR, and Patricia Place, Ph.D., 1996. A guide to the provision of educationally relevant consultative services. Reproducible forms for observing student performances, developing a consultation plan, observing the environment, and assessing consulting skills. **Item #471**

RESOURCES FOR WORKING WITH PARAPROFESSIONALS:

"The Paraprofessional's Guide to the Inclusive Classroom: Working as a Team", 2nd edition, Mary Beth Doyle, 2002. This practical, creative workbook includes field-tested activities, reproducible forms and planning guides. **Item #552**

"Let's Team Up! A Checklist for Paraeducators, Teachers and Principals", Kent Gerlach, 2004. A guide to improve team effectiveness with sections for paraeducators, teachers and administrators. **Item #545**

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS OF STUDENTS WITH SEVERE & MULTIPLE DISABILITIES:

"Including Students with Severe and Multiple Disabilities in Typical Classrooms", 2nd edition, June Downing, 2005. Practical strategies for increasing participation: curriculum adaptations, instructional techniques, scheduling, peer/adult roles, ideas for elementary, middle and high school. **Item #549**

"Teaching Literacy to Students with Significant Disabilities", June Downing, 2005. Strategies for the K-12 inclusive classroom, including teaching literacy skills, accommodations, linking IEP goals to state standards and assessment. **Item #551**

"Strategies for Promoting Literacy with Students who have Physical Disabilities", 3rd edition, Kathryn Wolf-Heller and Dawn Swinehart-Jones, 2006. Strategies and adaptations to promote reading and writing skills in students with severe motor or other limitations, including students who are nonverbal. **Item #553**

"First Things First: Early Communication for the Pre-Symbolic Child with Severe Disabilities", Charity Rowland and Philip Schweigert, 2004. Instructional strategies for teaching children who are not yet ready to use symbols to communicate. Includes forms for tracking performance data. **Item # 562**

"Design to Learn: An Environmental Inventory", Charity Rowland and Philip Schweigert, 2003. Book and DVD about creating opportunities for active participation and learning in everyday classroom activities for students with severe disabilities. DVD case examples. **Item #563**

"Shirt Protector Pattern", Willamette ESD. Reproducible pattern for age- appropriate bibs. **Item #554**

To order items from the RSOI Loan Library, print out a loan agreement form at www.rsoi.org and fax (541-957-4808) or mail to the RSOI office.

Coming Events

Hands-on with OTAP fall workshop series. Classes in Electronic Books as well as SOLO and Start to Finish by Don Johnston. Registration and information at www.otap-oregon.org under Trainings and Conferences.

Ed + Med Conference '06 • A conference on collaboration between health, social and educational services for children • October 13, 2006 • *St. Charles Medical Center, Bend*. Sponsored by High Desert ESD, Bend-LaPine SD, Oregon School Nurses Association, LICC, Deschutes County Commission on Children and Families, Central Oregon Pediatric Associates, OSU Cascades Campus. Register online at www.edmedconference.org or call 541-312-1961.

DEC 2006: The 22nd Annual International Conference On Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families "Advancing Knowledge, Expanding Opportunities" • October 19-22, 2006 • *Little Rock, Arkansas*. Registration and information at www.dec-sped.org

11th Annual Family Conference on Cerebral Palsy and Related Disabilities • October 27 & 28, 2006 • *Holiday Inn, Wilsonville*. Registration materials available online at www.ucpaorwa.org.

Bal-A-Vis-X Workshop • October 27-29 • *Coos Bay*. Call 541-269-4522 or email helenc@scesd.k12.or.us.

TASH Conference • November 8 – 11, 2006 • *Baltimore, Maryland*. See www.tash.org for information.

APTA Section on Pediatrics 9th Annual Advanced Clinical Practice in Pediatric Physical Therapy • November 10-12, 2006 • *Bellevue, WA*. For information and to register, go to www.pediatricapta.org.

How Does Your Engine Run? The Alert Program for Self-Regulation • Sherry Shellenberger & Mary Sue Williams • December 2-3 • *Tacoma, WA*; January 19-20 • *San Francisco, CA*. Registration is \$355 (\$250 group rate of three or more persons), plus \$30 for required text. Register online at www.AlertProgram.com.

Seminar for Feeding Teams • Keynote speaker, Rona Alexander, PhD, CCC-SLP: "*Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing: the Essentials*" • December 4 & 5, 2006, *Holiday Inn Express, Wilsonville*. Registration materials included in this newsletter and online at www.rsoi.org.

"Every Move Counts, Clicks and Chats" Lite Tech, Switch Use and Voice Output Devices • Jane Korsten, MA • March 1, 2007 • *Valley River Inn, Eugene*. Registration materials available at www.otap-oregon.org after December 1st.

TIES Conference: Therapy in Educational Settings. Keynote Speaker, Karen Kangas, OTR/L: "*Seating for Task Performance*" • April 16 & 17, 2007 • *Valley River Inn, Eugene*. Registration materials available at www.rsoi.org after February 1. Call 541-957-4834 for a presenter proposal form

CEC's 2007 Convention & Expo • April 18-21, 2007, *Louisville, Kentucky*. For more information, see www.cec.sped.org.