



Bridging the Gap

The newsletter of

Regional and Statewide Services for Students with Orthopedic Impairments

Happy New Year! In this issue you'll find registration materials for this year's *TIES Conference: Therapy in Educational Settings*, scheduled for April 7 & 8 at the Valley River Inn, in Eugene. We're excited about this year's keynote session, "Ethical Decision-Making: How to Survive When Priorities Conflict". Our keynote presenter is Marc Marengo, D.Phil., from Pacific University. In this day-long interactive session, Dr. Marengo will present a framework for making ethical decisions in the context of educational practice. His engaging delivery style and the relevance of his topic promise a presentation that is both thought-provoking and timely. Breakout sessions follow on Tuesday on a variety of topics, from medical interventions to team process. See the enclosed registration materials for all the details, and mark your calendar for TIES 2003!

VIEW from the BRIDGE
— Diana Roberts



Each year, programs around the state are invited to nominate a colleague for the the Judy Rowe Exemplary Therapist Award, presented at the TIES Conference. The award honors outstanding occupational and physical therapists who have made a significant contribution to the lives of children with disabilities in Oregon. Honorees are nominated by their colleagues in educational practice and are recognized Monday afternoon at the TIES Conference. Nominations are due to the RSOI office by no later than March 21. If you would like to nominate a colleague for the Exemplary Therapist Award, please submit a letter to Diana Roberts in the RSOI office (fax and email are also accepted) and include the following information:

- Your name, address and phone number,
- Nominee's name, address and phone number,
- A written summary of the contributions the nominee has made in the field of school therapy for children with disabilities,
- Letters of support from others who have experience with the nominee's contributions (i.e. coworkers, parents, students, supervisors, etc.).

DaVinci Award



The DaVinci Award was a big hit when it debuted at last year's TIES Conference. This award was initiated to showcase the ingenuity and imagination that therapists and others bring to their work, and to have a little fun in the process! Plan now to enter your triwall or other adaptive creations. Call, mail or email us a photo and brief description of your entry, then bring it to the TIES conference for display. A vote will be held to choose the winners in three categories: Most Original Design, Most Fun Design, and Best Combination of Good Design and Functionality. The success of this event depends upon your participation, so plan now to bring your best efforts in a spirit of fun and collegial sharing! Contact Diana at the RSOI office about your entry.

In This Issue

- ✓ TIES Conference: Therapy in Educational Settings, April 7 & 8, Valley River Inn, Eugene. Registration materials included with this newsletter and at RSOI.org.

Regional and Statewide Services for Students with Orthopedic Impairments • RSOI

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Inquiry-Based Science Learning Tool Available for Students with Limited Mobility in Oregon

The Sun-Earth-Moon (SEM) sky simulator is a virtual reality program to assist students with orthopedic impairments to perform scientific observations and investigations at physical locations which are difficult to access, (such as underneath, around, or behind objects), to facilitate inquiry-based science learning. SEM is an offshoot of one of the primary products of the Oregon Research Institute (ORI) of Eugene: A virtual reality simulator that trains a wheelchair driver via a virtual trip over and around various terrains and obstacles. The project is funded by a grant from the Federal Department of Education, written by Dr. Dean Inman.

SEM allows the user to “fly a spacecraft” around, above, and below the Sun, Earth, and Moon to get perspectives of these objects. The goal is to give the user the option of making observations from a wide variety of locations not conventionally accessible, to gain understanding of why the sky from Earth and objects in the sky appear the way they do.

The SEM flight simulator can be run via a variety of adaptive control tools. SEM is available as a download or a CD-ROM.

An initial test of the program ran at a school in Albany last year. A second test is currently running at Twin Oaks School in Eugene, with a third test planned for Cascade Middle School. Schools are encouraged to apply to participate in the program. Students in grades 4 through 12 are welcome. Project participants should be studying an Earth-in-Space unit. The program may also be run as an independent enrichment experience if the class isn't currently studying space.

Rick Kang, the statewide outreach person for Pine Mountain Observatory, provides the curriculum including evaluations, and training for the students and the teacher. There is no cost to the school. Contact Rick at rkang@efn.org, 541•683-1381. Download SEM at <http://www.ori.org/%7Evr/projects/vrscience.html>.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Diana Roberts

“How do motor programs handle requests for lifting protocols that are needed for behavioral, rather than orthopedic reasons?”

Motor specialists often receive requests to develop lifting protocols for students who drop to the floor and refuse to rise, creating issues related to staff and student safety. In this situation, the student is physically able to stand, but refuses to do so for behavioral reasons. Children may use falling as a method for communicating and/or exerting control over their environment. When this is the case, it would be treated as a behavioral or communication issue, rather than a motor problem which would require the expertise of a physical therapist. As such, a behavior specialist, Speech-Language Pathologist, or Autism specialist would be the appropriate source for consultation, if needed, and goals for the child would be documented in the IFSP or IEP.



Physical management of such children may be handled in different ways. In one Oregon program, the risk management office for the school district offers a lifting and handling inservice at the beginning of each school year. Many districts now include lifting requirements in job descriptions for paraeducators. Significant problems can arise when staff who are not able to lift because of medical issues are assigned to work with children who require lifting. Such staff health issues are appropriately addressed in a rehabilitation setting, rather than by the physical therapist employed by the educational program to serve students with disabilities.

Questions for "FAQ" may be sent to Diana at RSOI.

NEW IN THE RSOI LIBRARY

The Consulting Therapist: A Guide for OTs and PTs in Schools, Barbara Hanft and Patricia Place.

A guide to the provision of educationally relevant consultative services. With effective strategies and case studies to assist the education-based provider in implementing a consultative model in the school setting. Step-by-step information to help the therapist:



- apply therapeutic knowledge and skills to improve children's school performance,
- identify the six essential decisions for using an effective consultation model,
- analyze the interpersonal skills needed for each of four stages of the consultation process,
- collaborate with colleagues and families,
- resolve conflicts among team members.

Reproducible forms are provided for observing student performance in school, developing a school consultation plan, observing the environment, and assessing your consulting skills. (1996)

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The RSOI Library can be viewed online on the RSOI website, www.rsoi.org. Search the database to select items. Download and print the Library Loan Agreement form from the main page of the website. Fill it out and fax or mail it to the RSOI office to request loan items.

New School-Based Practice Article from AOTA

The September 16, 2002 issue of *OT Practice*, professional magazine of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), has an excellent article on school-based OT Practice. The article, titled "School-Based Practice - Moving Beyond 1:1 Service Delivery" is an insightful piece on how occupational therapists have worked within a variety of settings in supporting students' IEPs. The authors, Yvonne Swinth (TIES 2001 Keynote Presenter) and Barbara Hanft, focus on the delivery of occupational therapy services through the collaboration of the IEP team. Contributions to the article from school-based occupational therapists include anecdotes and case examples of their service delivery to students with disabilities. Case examples include:

- OT in the Preschool Setting
- Collaborating with Speech-Language Pathologists
- Students with Severe Needs
- Teaching Social Skills
- Occupational Therapy in Jr. High

The article relates the different approaches in occupational therapy to the mandates of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). With a focus on collaboration among service providers, Swinth and Hanft provide a look at how occupational therapy is moving beyond the 1:1 service delivery model.

To obtain a copy of this article, you can send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

ASPIRE IDEA Partnership
Council for Exceptional Children
1110 N. Glebe Rd. Ste. 300
Arlington, VA 22201

You can also order this issue of *OT Practice* (September 16, 2002) through AOTA for a fee from their website, <http://www.aota.org>.

Coming Events

2002-03
School Year

Head Start Region X Annual Conference, March 3-7, Red Lion Lloyd Center, Portland. For information call Melissa Endicott at 800•547-8887 or 503•725-4815, ext. 4815. Information will be available at www.ectc.pdx.edu.

“Beyond Assessment: Advanced Interdisciplinary Feeding Intervention and Follow-up”, March 23-26, Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles. Presented by the MCHB Public Health Nutrition Leadership Training Project at UCLA and the MCHB “Two at the Table” Continuing Education Project at Los Angeles Children’s Hospital. Stipend support is available for team participation. For information, visit the website at www.uscuap.org.

TIES: Therapy in Educational Settings Conference, April 7&8, Valley River Inn, Eugene. Registration materials enclosed with this newsletter. Printable registration materials also available at RSOI.org.

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) National Conference, April 10-12, Seattle. To register, see www.cec.sped.org, or call 888•CEC-SPED.

Wagon Wheel Conference, hosted by the Oregon Parent Training and Information Center, April 25-27, Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, Warm Springs. Call Devon Himelfarb, Voicemail 888•505-2673, ext. 206.

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