



DCNC FORUM

Diagnostic Center, Northern California

Professional Development Opportunities 2006-2007



The demand for Diagnostic Center trainings continue to be high. Our Professional Developmental Opportunities brochure was mailed in April and registration began May 1st. By May 3rd over 150 sessions were scheduled. New topics this year are:

Can We Help?

As you are preparing an application for assessment services, why not call Mary Anne Nielsen (510-794-2500) for assistance in developing your diagnostic questions? A pre-referral call often speeds up the process, ensuring that the district's questions are appropriate and all required documents are identified.

Consultation, Anyone?

Site, District or SELPA teams are invited to consult with DC specialists. Individual student consultation can be especially helpful when a diagnosis is in question, when the IEP team would like assistance planning the "next steps" of a student's program, or to understand the educational implications of a certain medical and/or mental health conditions. Services are available at the Diagnostic Center or via videoconferencing. Contact Renee Dawson, Assistant Director, at 510-794-2500 for more information.

Overview of Services Available

An hour presentation is available to the Northern California SELPA's and COE's to explain how to access DC services. The presentation includes a walkthrough of the referral package, discussion of eligibility and time for questions. Contact Mary Anne Nielsen for more information.

- Planning for Student Independence: Clarifying the Role of the Paraeducator
- The Activity Matrix: A Tool to Address IEP Goals in Meaningful Activities Throughout the Day
- Wechsler Individual Achievement Test-II: Administration, Scoring and Interpretation
- Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement: Administration, Scoring and Interpretation
- Mental Health Issues in the Classroom
- The ABC's of a Transition Functional Assessment Model (TFAM): Connecting Assessment to Transition Goals
- Meeting the Challenge: Teaching ALL Learners

To access these and any of our other offerings, visit our website at www.dcn-cde.ca.gov. Click on Scheduled Trainings and find the topic, date and location. To register, contact the designated person within the sponsoring SELPA as noted on this page.

Training Basics Online Training

The Diagnostic Center, Northern California offers an online training, **Transition Basics**, is designed to help parents and their children become active participants in the Individual Transition Plan (ITP) process; preparation for life after high school. The training, divided into six units, is designed to be read sequentially however, each unit can be viewed separately.



Each unit has activities for parent and child involvement and empowerment. Unit IV specifically has activities dealing with "Person-Centered Planning". Activities focus on [Self Awareness](#) (Understanding oneself); [Self Determination](#) (Making choices for oneself); and [Self Advocacy](#) (Speaking up for oneself). The parent and their child can complete activities together to share at the IEP/ITP meeting.

Transition Basics is available at <http://www.dcn-cde.ca.gov>.

New Resources:

Diagnosing and Treating Tourette Syndrome. This 2-disc set provides medical and educational information that is both helpful and inspiring. It also, includes a 30 minute segment from a teacher with TS on techniques to help students learn best and to assist with related disorders of ADHD and OCD. A joint production by the National Association of School Psychologist and the Tourette Syndrome Association, it is *FREE* to NASP members. CD/DVD format is available at <http://tsa-usa.org>.

TEACHER CORNER

Helpful websites especially in the area of language arts.

<http://dictionary.reference.com>

Contains links to on line thesauruses, dictionaries, maps and many other kinds of reference materials as well as practical information such as writing tips.

www.closingthegap.com

A site dedicated to Assistive technology for children and adults with special needs. It includes a great resource directory and free online forum.

Ask A Specialist

The Ask A Specialist Website is accessed daily by hundreds of professionals. Located at www.askaspecialist.ca.gov or at the Diagnostic Center's home page www.dcn-cde.ca.gov, questions are answered in the areas of

- Behavior
- Transition
- ADHD
- School Related Medical Issues.

A recent question asked Dru Saren to recommend some data collection sheets for recording behavior. She responded:

Data keeping is the most overlooked important part of changing behavior. There are some wonderful resources available, just a click away.

The first is on the PENT website and called Functional Observation Form. One thing I like a lot about this form is that it guides you to consider the function as you are observing the behavior. The other feature I like is that it allows you to collect data on more than one behavior simultaneously. This is especially helpful when particular problem behaviors seem to occur simultaneously. What I don't like about it is that it is quite detailed and takes some time to learn to use fluently.

<http://www.pent.ca.gov/07behaviorplanningafuncassessment/functobserv.pdf>

(If you have trouble with the link, go to www.pent.ca.gov, scroll down to Forms on the left, and select Functional Observation Form.)

The second resource is found at <http://www.polyxo.com/documents/>. There you find a baker's dozen of forms that range from generic to specific, with nice descriptions about when to use which.

I also like the Problem Behavior Pathway at <http://cecp.air.org/fba/problembehavior2/appendixg.htm> because it makes the logic of a problem behavior seem clear. And go back to the home page (<http://cecp.air.org/default.asp>) for the very useful "miniwebs".

Below I have copied a quick overview of the different types of behavioral recording that I swiped off the website of the illustrious Dr. Mac (<http://www.behavioradvisor.com/BehRecord.html>).

If you don't know Dr. Mac's website, (<http://www.behavioradvisor.com/index.html>) which has been mentioned in earlier Askaspecialist pages, bookmark it! It's a behavior specialist's idea of a good time!



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