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CROWN CHRONICLE

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System
Crown Associate Center

Serving Clay Duval & Nassau Counties

TOOLS CONFERENCE 2010 Mark Your Calendar & Register Now!

The 15th annual **Tools for Success Family Conference** will be held on February 24, 2010 at the Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership. Every year the conference is attended by parents, educators, and agency providers from across our region.

There are several aspects that make this conference unique. First, the Tools for Success Family Conference is the only conference in Northeast Florida exclusively for and about families of children with special needs. The topics of the sessions are chosen carefully to be sure they are relevant to families of children with special needs. Each session throughout the day is presented with the family's perspective and needs in mind. This ensures that the conference is relevant to the families but also provides educators and other service providers a chance to hear and examine topics from the family perspective. Second, the Tools Conference is planned, organized, and conducted by a collaborative committee made up of representatives from more than ten local agencies/service providers. This cross-agency collaboration is another reason that this conference continues to grow and stay relevant after fourteen years.

This year's conference will feature a rich variety of topics covering topics of interest to families of children of all ages. These topics will be presented in more than 20 concurrent sessions.

This year's topics include:

- › Behavior
- › Social Skills
- › IEPs
- › Parenting Styles and the Effect on Children
- › Parent Involvement
- › Transition (separate sessions on Early Steps Transition, Transition from High School, Transition to College and Project 10)
- › Effective Communication
- › Response to Intervention
- › Managing Medications
- › Special Needs Trusts/Asset Building
- › Independent Living Resources

Our Keynote Speaker at this year's conference is Sarah Vasquez. If you have never heard Sarah speak, you are in for a treat! Sarah brings an inspiring, emotional and ultimately uplifting message on the power of perseverance and hope.

For more information on Sarah and to read full descriptions of all of the sessions, please go to our main web page at www.fdlscrown.org and click the Tools Conference link.

Please join us at this year's conference.

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All Students Have Access to the Arts in Duval County

Art is a language that all people can speak that cuts across social, racial, cultural, educational, and economic barriers. All children should have access to the arts regardless of their background, talents, or disabilities. Studies show that art reinforces self-esteem, creative expression, and thinking skills. It promotes teamwork and cooperation. It connects us to the past and allows us to imagine possibilities for the future. It's a chance for an academically struggling student to shine and feel the pride of accomplishing something that they can point to and say, "I can do this, I am good at this." This was the reasoning and driving commitment that led the Duval County Exceptional Student Education Department to earmark some of the funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment grant (ARRA Stimulus grant) to provide opportunities for exceptional education students and teachers to have access to high quality arts learning experiences.

As a result, a number of initiatives are currently going on through a collaborative effort between the school system and cultural institutions throughout the community. A combination of direct experiences for exceptional education students and training for teachers ensures that changes in perception and practices will continue long after the funding is no longer available. Some of these include:

- › Scholarships for 600 students in self contained ESE classes to attend school tours at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

- › "Art and Autism Across the Spectrum" in collaboration with the Museum of Contemporary Art. Targeted classes visit the museum multiple times to explore the art education area and have hands on art experiences that will result in an art exhibit during Autism Awareness month (April) showcasing the students' work.
- › An ART and LIFE project for center schools which provides school performances using puppetry and traditional American music as well as small group performances tying jazz music and movement to literacy.
- › Training for teachers and therapists in how to use adaptive art making tools that allow students with limited physical abilities the independence to create their own artwork.
- › Start with the Arts training for teachers that work with students in early childhood exceptional education classes on how to integrate art into their curriculum.

The list goes on however the goal and the intent is clear. Inclusion teaches us that all means all. Everybody. No exceptions. The arts offer a means for self-expression, communication, and independence. By learning through the arts, students become lifelong learners, experiencing the joy of discovery and exploration. Exceptional education students in Duval County are experiencing this first hand.



Shared Reading

FDLRS/Crown has been offering a series of seven professional development opportunities related to Shared Reading for several years. These workshops combine training on the theory and practice of Shared Reading with the hands-on development of materials, "Adapted Books" and PowerPoint Books to support the implementation of Shared Reading in the classroom.

What is it?

Shared Reading is exactly what it sounds like – a time for sharing a story and reading together! The two primary purposes for implementing Shared Reading are:

- › To provide children with an enjoyable reading experience where they are introduced to a variety of authors and illustrators and the ways they create meaning.
- › To teach children to become readers and writers themselves. The teacher models effective reading skills, strategies, language, and behaviors and engages children in their use.

Daisy Stanilonis, M.S., CCC-SLP with the Clay County Schools attended one of the FDLRS/Crown Shared Reading workshops. She used the concept of Shared Reading in therapy sessions with some of her groups at Wilkinson Elementary. She developed a series of 2-3 therapy sessions centered around the children's book "The Manatee That Flew" by John C. Oberheu, a local retired wildlife biologist.

Ms. Stanilonis first reviewed the book to identify the vocabulary, concepts, main ideas, morphological, and syntactical structures that were appropriate for her students. Next she gathered her story props for the Shared Reading activities. These included a manatee puppet, spray bottle, wall map, inflatable globe, various pictures of birds, sea life, coastal marshes, a truck, boat, net, and other items that illustrated objects and concepts from the story.

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Shared Reading)*





(Continued from page 4 Shared Reading)

She implemented the Shared Reading activity over several therapy sessions. Students listened to the story on tape; they acted out the story using the story props; they had to answer questions designed to elicit specific speech sounds, vocabulary, and grammatical structures; they used pictures to sequence the story and other activities to support their speech and language therapy goals.

Ms. Stanilonis reports that using Shared Reading techniques as a part of her therapy were enjoyable and memorable for the students and had a dramatic impact on students. She has since used other books for implementing Shared Reading as a part of her therapy sessions.

FDLRS/Crown wishes to thank Ms. Stanilonis for sharing her experiences with this FDLRS/Crown training initiative. If you are interested in learning more about Shared Reading be sure to check out the FDLRS/Crown Training Calendar at www.fdlrscrown.org.

FDLRS/Crown is also proud to announce that they will soon be releasing an overview of Shared Reading that will be available electronically. This product will introduce the basic concepts of the Shared Reading process. Watch the FDLRS/Crown website for more information!

New Year....New Faces on FDLRS Staff

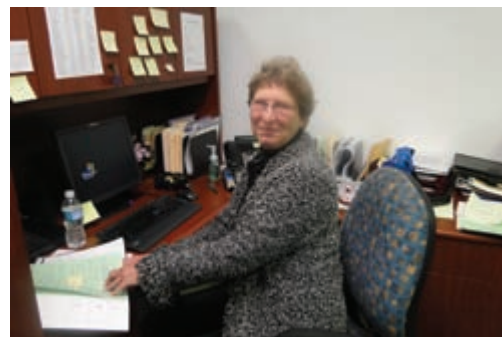
The last few months have brought many changes within the FDLRS/Crown family. Two long time members of the FDLRS/Crown staff retired at the end of June. Sylvia Briley, as part of the Human Resource Development (HRD) team provided training to educators for over 20 years and now spends her days traveling and enjoying her seven grandchildren. Renee Santillo, Child Find Specialist with FDLRS/Crown for twelve years has taken a new position with Episcopal Services and continues to work with children and families.

Lucia Townsend, also a long time member of the HRD team has taken a new position with Duval County Public Schools in the EE/SS Department as a Specialist for students with Specific Learning Disabilities.

These ladies are missed by all and we wish them well in their new endeavors. The openings that were created when they left created the opportunity for some wonderful new people to join our staff. FDLRS/Crown would like to welcome Annie Milton to Child Find and Henry Schmitges to HRD.

Our newest staff members would like to tell you a little about themselves:

Hi! My name is Annie Milton and I am excited to have joined the FDLRS/Crown family as a specialist on the Child Find staff. My career in education spans over 37 years and includes teaching children from birth to 3 years of age, kindergarten students, Even Start Family Literacy, HIPPIY, and GED classes. I have also been a curriculum specialist, ELLM coach, and Quality Rating Scale Manager for the Early Learning Coalition of Duval County. In addition, I am an adjunct professor in the field of Early Education at Florida State College at Jacksonville and am currently teaching the Child Development Associate course.



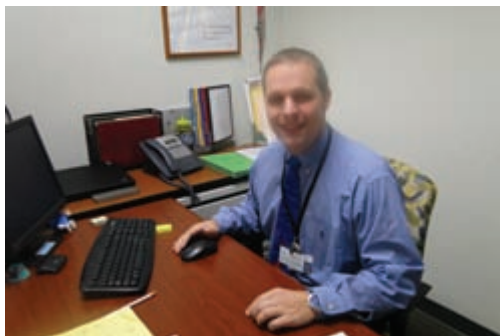
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New Staff)*



(Continued from page 5 New Staff)

I am a Jacksonville native and attended West Riverside Elementary, John Gorrie Middle School, and Robert E. Lee H.S. I graduated from the University of Georgia. (Go Dawgs!) I have one son, Ethan, who is a grad student at his mother's alma mater and is studying for a PHD in Plant Biology. In my spare time, what little I seem to have lately, I enjoy working in the dirt and tending my garden. I also like to play bridge and poker and try to walk on the beach weekly while looking for Bleeding Heart shells.

Let me introduce myself, Henry Schmitges, as the newest addition to the FDLRS/Crown team of specialists in Human Resources and Development. I am a graduate of



Jacksonville University and Nova Southeastern University, with degrees in Marine Science and Education. I have taught for 4 years in the Duval County Public Schools and 6 years in a private school working with special needs students. My last position was as an inclusion science teacher at J.E.B. Stuart Middle school. It was a difficult decision but I heard the calling to leave my school family and take on the challenges of this new position, bringing professional development to educators in the three counties that our center serves.

Outside of work I enjoy remodeling my home, which seems like a never ending task, and fishing.

Survey for Parents of Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

WHAT?

The Florida Department of Education is conducting a survey designed to provide the state with information on how well schools are supporting parents' involvement in their child's education. States are required to report this information to the federal government on an annual basis.

WHO?

All parents of children with IEPs in preschool to 12th grade.

WHEN?

February 1 through July 1, 2010

HOW?

Go online to www.ESEsurvey.com to complete the survey.

RESULTS?

The results will be reported to the United States Department of Education as a part of Florida's Annual Performance Report. Improvement activities are determined based on the survey report. No names will be released in any report. All responses are confidential.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

All parents of children with an IEP are strongly encouraged to go online and complete the survey. This survey, conducted only once a year, provides parents with a unique opportunity to be heard.



FDLRS/Crown Training Calendar

Winter/Spring 2010

FDLRS/Crown offers a variety of professional development opportunities designed to respond to the many needs of those who serve the students with disabilities in Clay, Duval and Nassau counties.

The offerings on the Training Calendar are developed in response to the needs identified across our service area. Be sure to review the FDLRS Training Calendar to identify professional development opportunities that will assist you in meeting your individual or school professional development goals.

The training opportunities available from FDLRS/Crown for Winter/Spring 2010 are listed on the FDLRS/Crown website at www.fdlrscrown.org. To register for any of these professional development offerings, go to the FDLRS/Crown website and choose the training & registration link.

Highlights:

Differentiating Instruction:

Differentiating Instruction 2: Continuing the Journey
Differentiating Instruction 3: Assessment and Grading
Instructional Practices (PDA-ESE Module - online)
Differentiating Instruction Through Shared Reading (Adapted Books)
Differentiating Literacy/Content Area Reading using Boardmaker Software
Differentiating Instruction using Microsoft Word

Behavior:

Dealing With Tough Kids
Solutions to Classroom Discipline
Positive Behavioral Supports (PDA-ESE Module - online)

Technology:

Shared Reading/Adapted Books
Boardmaker Basics & Boardmaker and Beyond
Creating Visual Supports
Technology for the Inclusive Classroom

Online:

PDA-ESE Online Classes: (60 point modules)
Instructional Practices
Positive Behavioral Supports
Language Development and Communication
Assessment and Evaluation


Also Available:

Accommodations and Modifications
ParaPro



Book Study Communities of Practice: A Study Group Guide for Differentiated Instruction

A facilitated, School-Based Book Study

- What:** A book study group using “*How to Differentiate Instruction for Mixed Ability Classrooms*” to facilitate an understanding of how to use different approaches with students who have a variety of learning styles, interests, and abilities. Participants in this study group will learn practical ways to create a learning environment that addresses the needs of all students as they learn and share with their peers.
- This study requires seven sessions of two hours each to complete. FDLRS staff will provide a scripted leader’s guide and will facilitate sessions 1, 4, and 7. A school-based facilitator will lead sessions 2, 3, 5, and 6 using the guide.
- FDLRS Commitment:**
- › Copies of book for all participants
 - › Study guide with agendas, handouts, forms, etc. for school-based facilitator
 - › Participant materials
 - › 3 videos loaned from FDLRS/FIN for use in sessions
 - › Support for school-based facilitator as needed
- School Commitment:**
- › Differentiated Instruction included in the school’s improvement plans
 - › Participants will attend sessions and complete assignments
 - › Administrator will conduct periodic “walk-throughs” during group meetings and document implementation of strategies learned
- Skills Learned:**
- › Tiered lessons
 - › Cubing
 - › Response cards
 - › Jigsaw
 - › Graphic Organizers
 - › Lecture strategy
 - › Exit cards
- Presented by:**  FDLRS/Crown
- Application:** Schools may apply for participation by contacting FDLRS/Crown at 346-4601 ext. 107.



Explore New Technology Territories!

Looking for technological resources for your struggling student or a student with disabilities?

The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) developed an online booklet entitled "*Exploring New Territories*" available in three versions. The first is a WORD doc that can be reformatted for large print and read by a screen reader. The second has a plain white background to save on ink when printing from an ink jet or laser printer. The third has a full color background. The links are active in all three versions.

The following link will take you to the website

<http://fdlrstech.com/handouts.htm>.

So take some time to explore the booklet and access the many resources available online that address such topics as:

- › Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- › Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM)
- › Reading / Writing / Publishing
- › Math / Science
- › Creative Media
- › Virtual Instruction / eLearning
- › Computer Access
- › FCAT Accommodations

Does Your Preschool Child Have Difficulty...

- › Learning › Speaking › Walking
- › Hearing › Seeing › Playing
- › Taking part in activities with other children?

CHILD FIND may be able to help by conducting screening in the areas of communication, motor development, vision, hearing, and preschool readiness skills. In this way, problems may be detected early and possible options can be discussed.

If you have specific questions about your child, call 904-348-7784 to talk with one of our **CHILD FIND** Specialists.

The Florida Department of Education Clearinghouse

The Clearinghouse operates a resource center that provides parents, educators, and other Floridians with access to materials about exceptional student education, student services, juvenile justice education, early intervention, parent and professional partnerships, and many other topics.

This resource center contains more than 6,000 books, videotapes, multimedia kits, assessment tools, staff development materials, and other materials that Floridians may borrow on short-term loan.

It also contains copies of about 400 items produced by the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education, and Student Services, however due to budget constraints the Department has closed the distribution center that housed and disseminated these publications. Many of the publications can still be accessed online at www.fldoe.org/ese.

For additional information you can contact the Clearinghouse, at cicbiscs@fldoe.org.



Special Places for Special Kids: A Community Resource Guide for Exceptional Children and Their Families

Since 1981 FDLRS/Crown has published Special Places for Special Kids, a directory intended to inform the community of services available for children with disabilities in Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties. Every few years FDLRS has updated the directory and made it available to parents and others at no cost. The most recent revision is now available online at the FDLRS website, www.fdlrscrown.org (Look for the Special Places for Special Kids link on the blue menu bar on the right side of the page). We invite you to bookmark it and share the information with families who may benefit. We hope you will find the online "Special Places for Special Kids" a useful tool. For more information, contact either Sue Alterman at altermans@duvalschools.org or Dreda Shoemo at shoemod@duvalschools.org.

Upcoming Events Save the Date

- › February 24, 2010: 8:00am – 3:00pm

Tools for Success Family Conference

Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership
4019 Boulevard Center Dr. Jacksonville, FL

The 15th Annual Conference for and about Families of Children with Special Needs (See article in this newsletter for more details)

- › March 5, 2010

3RD Annual SEDNET Conference

Celebration Church/Orange park Campus
512 Kingsley Ave. Orange Park, FL

Morning Session:

"How to Manage a Public Shooting Incident and Understanding the Psychology of Shooters"

Afternoon Session:

"Current Medications and treatments for Mental Health Diagnosis for Children and Adolescents"

- › March 23-26, 2010

Very Special Arts (VSA)

Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens

The 15th Annual Festival serving over 2400 children from Duval County Public School's Exceptional Student Education classes as well neighboring school districts. Students will explore the museum's galleries, gardens, studios, and Art Connections while participating in eight art activities.

- › April 1, 2010

26th Annual Conference on Children with Special Needs Birth to Five

Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership
4019 Boulevard Center Dr. Jacksonville, FL

This annual conference is designed for teachers, therapists, and other professionals who serve young children with disabilities.



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Child Find

Child Find is Moving!

In March or April, Child Find will be relocating to the Professional Learning Communities Center (PLCC) and joining the rest of the FDLRS' staff. Please stay tuned for further information as the time of the move is closer.

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