

Welcome to the 14th Annual Inclusion Works! Conference

Up, Up and Away? The program cover this year features soaring hot air balloons. Each year, we have brought together excellent presenters to provide learning experiences designed to help educators and families work together to educate students with disabilities in general education settings. Yet as we bring you the 14th Annual Inclusion Works! Conference, we wonder why inclusive practices are not soaring as high in the educational sky as they could be.

What's it Gonna Take? We believe that in addition to knowledge, tools and collaboration, implementing inclusive practices takes **courage** and **wisdom**. This year, in the spirit of supporting higher and faster flight of inclusive practices, Inclusion Works is pleased to provide you with a wonderful book co-authored by our Master Session presenter, Carol Tashie, titled, "Seeing the Charade: What We Need to Do and Undo to Make Friendships Happen." In this must-read, Carol, et. al., define "seeing the charade" as 1) learning, thinking and acting in new ways, and 2) willingness to challenge the status quo.



A little inspiration. By offering you this gift, we hope to inspire both courage and wisdom in you as you take what you learn at this conference back into your schools, homes and communities. At Inclusion Works!, you can expect to learn more about creating general education classrooms where:

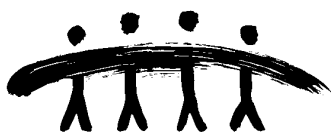
- Disability is seen as only one of many attributes possessed by each child,
- All students with disabilities are expected to be members of the general education population,
- Students receive services and supports from special education in general education settings, and
- Students with disabilities are being involved and making progress in instruction based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

We encourage you to take full advantage of the rich learning experiences offered during the conference. Thanks for all you do to build schools in which each student belongs, learns, contributes and is treasured.

Because of you...Inclusion Works!

Executive Director, **The Arc of Texas**

The 2007 Inclusion Works! conference is co-sponsored and funded by:



The Arc of Texas

**The Access to
General Curriculum
Statewide Network**

**VSA arts
of Texas**

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Featured Presentations

Master Sessions for All Conference Participants

THURSDAY

Co-Teaching Full Day Session*

Dr. Wendy Murawski is an expert on collaboration, inclusion, co-teaching, staff development, block scheduling and strategies for students with mild/moderate disabilities. Dr. Murawski, who is now an associate professor, has been an advocate for co-teaching since her own successful experience with the concept as a secondary teacher. Copies of Dr. Murawski's handbook, "Co-Teaching for Success: Effective Strategies for Working Together in Today's Inclusive Classrooms (Grades 6-12)," will be available for \$10 for those who attend this intensive, all-day session.

* Participants are expected to commit to the entire day and not to join the session later than 9:30 a.m.



Dr. Wendy Murawski



Sherry Marsh

The Perfect Match: Brain-Based & TEKS- Based Instruction

Classroom instruction often seems to employ a "shoot to the middle" approach in which the lesson level is accessible to some, but not all students. Sherry Marsh will explore the latest brain research and how teachers can use it to create high-achievement classrooms. Discover how to set the climate for learning, match teaching to learning styles, teach content skills without lowering expectations and move beyond traditional assessment to discover what the students are really learning.

9:30 a.m. session - Elementary; 1 p.m. session - Secondary

FRIDAY

Voices of Friendship Part One - In But Not With: How Schools Help or Hinder the Development of Social Relationships

Friendship and a sense of belonging are essential elements in student achievement and successful outcomes. However, many students with disabilities report they are lonely and lack real meaningful relationships with classmates and friends. Carol Tashie will identify the barriers to friendship that exist in many schools and classes and examine the ways schools can help or hinder the development of social relationships.



Carol Tashie

Voices of Friendship Part Two - School, Family and Community: Strategies to Facilitate Friendships

Whether you attended part one of the Voices of Friendship workshop or not, feel free to join Carol Tashie for part two of this

session as she explores a wide variety of ways schools, families and communities can facilitate the development of friendships between students with and without disabilities. Learn strategies you can use to support meaningful relationships for the students you know and love.

In But Not With: The Negative Effects of Pull Out

For many students with disabilities—even those placed in general education—the school day still consists of separate places and lessons. These students are "pulled out" of their classrooms to receive special services. Reasons for pull-out are plentiful, but the negative effects on learning and belonging are rarely mentioned. Carol Tashie is joined by Michael Sgambati, a recent high school graduate, who will share his thoughts on why the practice is so damaging.

Inclusive Schools & Standards Too?

Paula Kluth's engaging and interactive presentation will highlight models of inclusive schooling that move beyond "physical inclusion" and help all students access challenging academic content and standards-based learning. Topics include reducing pull-out services; giving all students (even those with significant disabilities) access to appropriately challenging academic curriculum; providing inclusive literacy education; helping all students meet the standards and raising teacher expectations.



Paula Kluth

Burning the Chair, Encouraging Chaos and Other Ways to Differentiate Instruction

Paula Kluth's presentation focuses on planning lessons in a diverse inclusive classroom. Participants will learn how to modify curricula and instruction for students with a range of disabilities, abilities, gifts, needs, challenges, and skills. Specifically, educators will explore how to use a wider range of formats, create more relevant lessons, increase instructional strategies and develop a quick and easy differentiation schedule.

Wednesday Night Belated Mardi Gras Celebration!

Join us Wednesday evening for a belated Mardi Gras Welcome Celebration featuring gourmet hors d'oeuvres (and cash bar) from the fabulous Renaissance chefs and an inspiring performance by nationally recognized poet, motivational speaker and advocate **LeDerick Horne**—who spent most of his time in school believing he did not have much of a future. Hear the inspiring story of how, with the support of a learning disabilities resource program at the college he attended, Horne became an outstanding student who graduated with honors. It was during his college years that Horne discovered his gift for poetry, which he now uses to help empower and educate those who are lucky enough to attend his presentations.



LeDerick Horne

Inclusion Works for Parents, Too!

Parent Power Hour With Laura Buckner & Friends!

Join **Laura Buckner** and other Texas parents for the "Inclusion Works for Parents, Too" kick off as they explore what it means to have "Parent Power" and how to use it in a balanced way. This celebration of Inclusion Works! parents will include gourmet hors d'oeuvres from the fabulous Renaissance chefs.

Kick-off Celebration!

Laura Buckner is the parent of two young men, David and Michael. A long-time advocate for students with disabilities, Laura now works on person-centered planning initiatives with the Center for Disability Studies and with Family to Family Network on Texas Project FIRST.

Realizing the Positive Power of Partnership

In this interactive session, **Sam and JoEllen Howarth** will share lessons learned, particularly how collaboration between parents and professionals can lead to powerful changes in practice and remarkable inclusive classrooms/schools and how challenges often lead to exciting opportunities.

Dr. Sam Howarth, a former State Director of Special Education and his wife JoEllen Howarth, a lawyer/mediator specializing in collaborative problem-solving, are the parents of two 15-year-old children with special educational needs and gifts.

3 Keys for Parents: Opening Doors to Self-Determination for Your Children

Learned helplessness can be a greater barrier to success than disability itself. But when students with disabilities are self-determined, their potential for success is unlimited... parents breathe easier, too! **Kathie Snow** will share three keys that can open the door to self-determination!



Kathie Snow

Kathie Snow is the proud parent of two young adults, one of whom has a disability diagnosis. She is an author, public speaker and founder of Disability Is Natural-Revolutionary Common Sense!

What About the Future?

Turn around...and your child is grown! Is your son or daughter receiving the education needed for successful employment and/or post-secondary education? **Kathie Snow** will demonstrate how a focus on big dreams for tomorrow can clarify what we need to do today!

Principals' Academy

Thursday & Friday, March 1 & 2
9:15 a.m.-1 p.m. • Wedgwood Room

Please note: The academy is sold out. A working lunch is provided.

THURSDAY

Inclusion and the Principal: Toolkit for Campus Leaders

Ervin Knezek, Ed.D.,

is director of academic services for the Region XIII Education Service Center in Austin, where he supports regional efforts in curriculum, assessment and data analysis. Through his broad experience as an administrator and classroom teacher, he has developed leadership support programs and data tools to help campus and district leaders better meet the needs of students with disabilities in inclusive settings.

Dr. Knezek will discuss changes in the state assessment and accountability systems and ways to plan for these changes through data analysis, instructional programming and emphasis on state curriculum.



Ervin Knezek

FRIDAY

An Administrator's Guide to Creating and Supporting Co-teaching



Dr. Wendy Murawski

Wendy Murawski, Ph.D., is an associate professor whose areas of expertise include collaboration, inclusion, co-teaching, staff development, block scheduling and strategies for students with mild/moderate disabilities. She is the lead author of "The Instructor's Manual for Interactions: Collaboration Skills for School Professionals" and the author of the resource handbook, "Co-teaching for Success: Effective Strategies for Working Together in Today's Inclusive Classrooms (Grades 6-12)."

Dr. Murawski will help administrators create, maintain, support or improve co-teaching teams at their schools, identifying strategies for scheduling, creating partnerships, and finding time for co-planning.

Breakout Session Descriptions (listed alphabetically)

Accessing the General Education Curriculum Using TAKS–Alt Resources

Patricia Otto

Learn about the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills–Alternate (TAKS–Alt) for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Develop instructional activities that are linked to grade-level standards using the resources developed by the state.

Designed for all conference participants.

Accommodations and Modifications: Assisting Children to Access the General Curriculum

Dina Rogers and Alfred Lopez

Participants in this session will leave with a district- or campus-level process to select, implement and evaluate the effectiveness of instructional and assessment accommodations for students with disabilities.

Designed for all conference participants.

Adapting the K-12th Grade Core Curriculum to Promote Active Learning for Students With Moderate to Severe Cognitive Disabilities

Dr. June Downing

If you've ever heard or said, "Yes, but not THOSE kids..." this session is for YOU! Lots of video examples and actual modifications will be used to present practical strategies for modifying the core curriculum to make it relevant and meaningful for a wide range of students with moderate to severe cognitive disabilities and multiple disabilities. Learn how to actively engage students in learning general curriculum.

Designed for all parents, educators, administrators and related service providers interested in elementary and secondary education.

ADHD: Chances Are It's Not the Lights, a Vitamin Deficiency, Sugar, or Red Dye #2

Jan Deaton

Often hilarious and sometimes heartbreaking, Jan explains the medical diagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and how to deal with "those" students in the classroom. Using personal experience as the parent of a child diagnosed with ADHD and experience as a special education teacher, Jan makes this session both informative and amusing.

Designed primarily for parents.

Algebra for All Ages

Beryl Horton

Explore visual algebra, from simple equations to linear functions and graphs—algebra kids of ALL ages (and teachers) will "get" because they can see it work! Hands on! After teaching this session, people often say to Beryl, "I wish someone had told me this when I was taking Algebra!" (If time permits, Beryl will show you how second graders can factor quadratic equations without pencil and paper!)

Designed for all conference participants.

Assistive Technology to Access the Curriculum

Gayle McNurlen

Teachers struggle with inclusion of students with disabilities in the general education classroom and implementation of technology used to access the curriculum. There is no time in a busy day to adapt specific content that is standards based. Learn ways to accomplish this without hours of preparation.

Designed for participants interested in preschool and elementary.



Augmentative Assistive Communication (AAC), Education and Employment

Gaylon Ponder

Examine assistive technology, goals, roles, transition, inclusion and how they affect employment after graduation. Identify appropriate jobs for people who use assistive technology. Case studies are included.

Designed for all conference participants.

Beyond Preferential Seating and Extra Time: Possibilities for Accommodating Students in the General Education Classroom (Grades 3-5)

Melissa Mitchell and Cheryl Westbrook

In this problem-solving workshop, educators will engage in hands-on activities and strategies designed to assist them in creating solutions for students who face instructional barriers related to content vocabulary and textbooks.

Designed for elementary general and special educators at the advanced stage of learning about or implementing inclusion.

Bringing Out the Not-So-Mad Scientist in Your Teaching: Using Research-Based Teaching Practices

Dr. Randy Soffer

Legally and logically effective research-based teaching practices are crucial for successful inclusion. At this session, in a hands-on way, you will explore what works based on the research.

Designed for all conference participants.

Building a Quality Arts Program in Your School

Russell Granet

Arts can no longer be seen as an after school or enrichment program; the arts must be included as a core subject taught by licensed specialists and supported by outside arts partners. Quality education is about differentiated instruction and the arts are a positive way of impacting students who have different learning styles. Mr. Granet will share the strategies and skills needed to develop a quality, sustainable arts program; create strong leadership; increase parent involvement and document improved teaching and learning. Come participate in this creative, practical, hands-on workshop!

Designed for all conference participants.



On Saturday, this session is primarily for parents; otherwise for all



Building Bridges: Creating Personal Portfolios That Help Peers, Teachers and Everyone Else Get to Know (and Love) Your Child

Ivy Goldstein and Jennifer Osborne

Open hearts and minds to your child's unique gifts and abilities! Using samples and stories, this session offers ideas on how to use personal portfolios at different ages

Designed primarily for parents.

Can Students Learn Functional Skills in General Education Classes?

Carol Tashie

Many students with disabilities who are included in general education classes still have school days that involve separate "functional skills" classes and community-based instruction. Find out how "functional skills" can be taught in typical places and doesn't have to pull students away from their classmates.

Designed for all conference participants.

Changing School Culture

LeDerick Horne

Examine the way education practices, policies and personnel can affect students with disabilities. Confront the cultural standards and learn to create an environment that optimizes each student's potential. Nationally recognized programs will be presented as examples of best practices. There will be a focus on creating systemic change in schools and communities.

Designed for all conference participants.

Choosing the Best Augmentative Assistive Communication (AAC) Access Method

Gaylon Ponder

Examine the pros and cons of switches, head pointing, eye gaze, touch screen, mouse, and Morse Code. This is a good place to learn about a new access method for a particular student.

Designed for all conference participants.

Dice, Dominoes and One-Eyed Jacks

Beryl Horton

Talk about differentiated instruction! These games let students of various ability levels play together and join in the fun of learning. We will play the afternoon away. Unique dice will be available for purchase.

Designed for all interested conference participants.

Differentiation in a Diverse Classroom

Hanna Carter and Mike Desparrios

Learn to differentiate instruction for your entire classroom, from struggling learners to advanced learners. Increase skills in planning for lessons that provide access to the general curriculum for all students.

Designed primarily for educators in the initial stage of learning about or implementing inclusive practice.

Differentiation Strategies: One Size Really DOES Fit All!

Kelly Hewitt

Learn differentiation strategies and discover a variety of tools that will ensure achievement and growth for ALL students in a mixed-ability classroom. Be ready to participate in hands-on activities that will provide students with disabilities access to TEKS. Elementary - 9:30 a.m.; Secondary - 1 p.m.

Designed for all conference participants.



Dreams, Visions and Goals

Craig Blackburn

You may laugh or you may cry, but you WILL be motivated as 27-year-old Craig shares his dreams, visions and goals from the perspective of an individual with Down syndrome who meets challenges head-on and makes believers out of skeptics. Craig's message is about ability and not dis-ability.

Designed for all conference participants.

Dynamic Display: Transition From Pictures to Literacy

Gaylon Ponder

Too many students using augmentative communication devices get stuck in pictures and don't prepare for lifelong learning even though they are capable. Discover ways to transition from pictures to literacy so students can participate in a full educational experience and prepare for standardized tests and advanced academics after graduation. Philosophy and the process for moving on to words are covered.

Designed for all conference participants.

Effective Classwide Behavior Support in the Inclusive Classroom

Dr. Josh Harrower

Learn key aspects of classwide behavior support plans, such as the involvement of students in developing classroom rules and procedures; guidelines regarding the selection of rules and procedures; developing and using lesson plans to teach rules and procedures and methods for evaluating the effectiveness of strategies.

Designed for all conference participants.

Eliminating Inclusion Confusion

Kris Ward and Sherry Cragen

Explore practical strategies for managing instruction and behavioral challenges for students in an inclusive setting. Learn to adapt instructions and assignments, manage the instructional environment and address appropriate behavioral expectations.

Designed primarily for elementary and secondary educators and teachers- in-training in the initial stage of inclusion implementation.



On Saturday, this session is primarily for parents; otherwise for all

Everyone—Yes, Everyone—Belongs!

Kathie Snow

Concerned about students with disabilities being accepted in general ed classrooms? Learn what it takes to create a welcoming environment where all students belong, learn, support each other and succeed! The kids can make it happen!

Designed for all conference participants.



Families & Educators: A Powerful Team

Laura Buckner

Effective plans are the outcome when parents and professionals work together, with collaboration and creativity, and focus on the needs of the child. We'll explore how to make it happen!

Designed for all conference participants.



Family Participation in Positive Behavior Support

Dr. Josh Harrower

Families play an important role in developing effective behavior support plans based on functional assessment information. Examine a conceptual framework for collaborative teaming and generating and organizing interventions, and discover procedures that were successful in both research and real-world situations.

Designed primarily for parents of elementary or secondary students.

How Do I Hit All Levels at Once? Strategies for a Multilevel Inclusion Classroom

Lisette Spraggins

Propel struggling students toward learning success and inspire average students to reach higher levels of achievement. Gain the tools you need to teach all levels and learning styles. Explore motivating strategies and ready-to-use techniques that create a student-centered classroom where everyone succeeds. Secondary - 9:30 a.m.; Elementary - 1 p.m.

Designed primarily for all conference participants.



IDEA: What's New?

Rona Statman and Kay Lambert

IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, was reauthorized in 2004, and new regulations went into effect in Oct. 2006. Find out what you need to know about the new regulations. Also learn about proposed Texas Education Agency Commissioners Rules and legislation at the state level.

Designed for all conference participants.

IEPs and the Secondary General Education Classroom

Cheryl Bricken and Brandee York

Learn ways to serve students who qualify for special education services in the high school general education classroom. Examine the use of a course description guide and checklist, scheduling course sections and course credits/grading.

Designed primarily for administrators, general and special educators.

Inclusion, School Reform and the Arts: Quality Arts Programs Change Schools

Russell Granet

Discover how students with autism and multiple disabilities experienced great overall improvement—meeting and exceeding IEP goals and experiencing increases in positive behaviors including improved social skills, increased verbalization, and increased attending and focusing skills—when an arts program was introduced at their school. Learn how one school with limited arts programming progressed to opening an arts academy. Abstract thinking, imagination and creativity also improved markedly ... Art works!

Designed for all conference participants.



Is Dad Included? Well...IS He?

Scott Gammage, M.Ed.

Collaboration is the backbone of a individualized educational and behavioral plan for the children that need them. Families can provide the most detailed account of their children in all settings. There may be important perspectives that get overlooked. Is dad included? Well...IS he?!?

Designed for all conference participants.

A Land We Can Share: The Literate Lives of Students with Significant Disabilities

Dr. Paula Kluth

In this interactive session, Dr. Kluth will explain how many learners with autism and other disabilities have been excluded from meaningful literacy experiences. Participants will also learn strategies for including diverse learners in listening, reading, writing, and speaking activities.

Designed for all conference participants.

Learning and Testing When Reading is the Challenge

Bonnie Hill

Policymakers hold all students to the same standards. This presentation will demonstrate new WYNN software to support students with learning differences to comprehend grade-level curriculum, even when reading and writing skills are below grade level. Tools for Internet learning will allow all students to participate.

Designed primarily for administrators, educators and teachers-in-training interested in elementary and secondary education.



Let's Talk: Self-Advocates and Parents Learn to Live, Laugh and Grow

James Meadours and Tanya Winters

Learn how self-advocates and parents can be more involved and better support each other during the IEP process. Find out how to use Person-Directed Planning as a tool for better communication and a more effective IEP meeting.

Designed primarily for parents and self-advocates.



Make a Difference

Jack Pearpoint and Lynda Kahn

An interactive introduction to a "Learning Journey" – structured reflections to help individuals, families and organizations renew and refocus their commitment and capacity to "making a difference" and giving everyone a chance for a full and contributing life.

Designed for all conference participants.



Make-and-Take Math Games

Beryl Horton

Leave this session with several games ready to play with your child/student, plus ideas for many more! Examine ways to make any game simpler or more challenging. (My third graders use exponents, square roots, and factorials when they play War!). Bring five file folders or purchase them at the session. Dice, spinners and game pieces will also be available for purchase to complete your game!

This session is appropriate for all interested conference attendees but is specifically designed for parents.

Making Learning Active at Middle School

Jan Killingsworth and Suzy Jackson

Instruction presented in active ways with hands-on materials sets the stage for deeper thinking and retention of content for all students. Learn strategies for turning lecture into lifelong learning. (Participants attending either the 9:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. session may attend the Make-N-Take session from 3:30-5:00 p.m.)

Designed for participants at both the initial and advanced stages of learning about or implementing inclusive practice.



Math Across Our States (Or 'Oh, the Places I'll Go!')

Beryl Horton

Have your children take a virtual road trip this summer. I will be on a 7,000 mile plus journey to find (and document) math! From Atlanta to Washington, DC, by way of Seattle, I'll post daily additions to the web site. Learn to access this free tour and receive a preview packet of work your child can do while following the road trip.

Designed for all conference participants.

Math: Hook 'Em With History

Beryl Horton

These great stories from math history will capture the minds and imaginations of students. From the familiar to the obscure, these snippets will entertain and challenge students. Kids get so into the challenges, they forget they are practicing math! A win-win situation!

Designed for all conference participants.

Microsoft Office Supports for Struggling Students

Vickie Payne-Rainwater

Microsoft Office has many built-in features to help support struggling learners. Discover features, such as the Accessibility and Forms Template, that can help students in the general education curriculum.

Designed primarily for administrators and educators.

Multi-Cultural Math and a Little MAGIC

Beryl Horton

From Martian math to Mayan math, the world marches to different drummers. These multicultural lessons show students different ways to reach a solution. Many literature connections will be made. Every book can be made into a math lesson. Different ways of noting numbers, Geometry of Quilts, and Pirate Maps all engage students in the delightful world of mathematics.

Designed for all conference participants.

One Size Doesn't Fit All: Inclusion and Differentiated Instruction

Lisa Kirby

Inclusion, AGC, Accommodations, Modifications, Co-teaching, and Differentiated Instruction—discover how all of these can impact a student's attitude and academic performance. Learn brain-based and research-based strategies for implementing accommodations and modifications in the classroom. Improve skills in planning and collaboration. Secondary - 9:30 a.m.; Elementary - 1 p.m.

Designed for all conference participants.



Parents as Dreamkeepers

Charmaine Thaner

How can you keep your dreams and your child's dreams alive? Create possibilities and opportunities for your child. Share strategies and learn from other families as you set high expectations for your child.

Designed primarily for parents.



Person-Centered Planning Tools

Jack Pearpoint and Lynda Kahn

An interactive introduction to Circles, MAPS, PATH and Solution Circles—tools to develop person-centered plans for one and all. Whether 'new' or 'renew,' join us to explore the power of putting a person at the center of his/her own life plan.

Designed for all conference participants.

Person-Centered Thinking for Person-Centered Planning

Laura Buckner

Person-Centered Planning is an intentional approach to planning that focuses on the individual's preferences, strengths, needs and priorities in life. Learn the necessary principles and skills to support a person with disabilities to plan for the life that he/she wants to live.

Designed for conference participants interested in elementary and secondary education.

Play and Learn: Integrated Play, Embedded Learning, Data Analysis and Active Youngsters

Cindy Shiolen and Lynne Hyman

Learn about the motor-based curriculum Play and Learn, and review the results of an informal two-year study incorporating state standards for PPCD and early childhood students. Assistive Technology is interwoven for instructional support when needed.

Designed for preschool educators and parents in the initial stage of learning about or implementing inclusive practices.



Please Help Me With My Homework! Strategies for Parents & Caregivers

Susan Fitzell

Help children finish homework assignments successfully! Get answers to questions that parents and people who care for elementary students often ask about homework. Learn simple strategies for memorizing facts, keeping learning fun and ways to organize assignments so that they are manageable.

Designed primarily for parents.

The Power of Teamwork in Student Problem-Solving Meetings

Dr. Randy Soffer

Tired of the same old solutions to the same old problems? Do you collaborate to solve learning or behavior problems for students prior to receiving special education? Come to this session and learn practical strategies for energizing team problem-solving.

Designed for all conference participants.

Practical Modifications for the Elementary Classroom

Jan Deaton

Learn to make simple modifications and use alternative strategies to make learning fun and accommodate students' various learning styles. Discover quick ways to modify tests and worksheets and create materials to place in independent learning centers.

Designed primarily for parents, educators and teachers-in-training interested in elementary education.

Practical Strategies for Including Students With Autism Spectrum Disorders

Dr. Lori Ernsperger

Students with autism spectrum disorders exhibit a variety of maladaptive behaviors that interfere with their learning in inclusive settings. Positive behavior programs, environmental controls, and reinforcement strategies assist the student in learning new skills and benefiting from the general education placement. In this workshop, participants will examine the functions of behavior and identify proactive strategies for teaching replacement skills.

Designed for educators, administrators and parents interested in elementary and secondary education.

Practical Strategies for Working With Students with High-Functioning Autism and Asperger Syndrome

Dr. Lori Ernsperger

More and more students are being identified with pervasive developmental disorders, including autism and Asperger Syndrome. Through humor, demonstrations, role-play, video clips and real life experiences, discover successful strategies for increasing learning and promoting positive behavior. Learn to develop predictable schedules, organize the environment, teach social skills, and manage problem behaviors.

Designed for educators, administrators and parents interested in elementary and secondary education.

Preschool Science and Literacy: Inclusion Strategies with Assistive Technology Supports

Cindy Shioleno and Stacy Shackelford

Participants will experience hands-on literature based strategies for teaching Pre-K Science guidelines in inclusive settings to meet the needs of all students. Tips for AT and adaptations will be demonstrated.

Designed for preschool educators and parents in the initial stage of learning about or implementing inclusive practices.



Proactive Strategies for Addressing Problem Behaviors for Individuals With Autism Spectrum Disorders

Dr. Lori Ernsperger

Individuals with autism spectrum disorders exhibit a variety of maladaptive and challenging behaviors that can interfere with life. Positive behavior plans and reinforcement techniques assist the child in learning new skills and adapting to a variety of settings. Examine the functions of behavior and identify proactive strategies for teaching replacement and alternative skills.

Designed for all conference participants.

The Problem with Behavior Problems: Supporting Students with Autism and Other Disabilities

Dr. Paula Kluth

Explore fresh ways to consider "behavior problems." Examine where problems come from, who "owns" them and how our approaches can create behavior struggles or minimize them. Discuss how to avoid challenging moments by collaborating and thinking out of the box.

Designed for all conference participants.



Reading & Writing the FUN Way

Charmaine Thaner

Learn ways to read, write and tell stories together with elementary aged children. Explore literacy games and engaging activities to help children be more confident readers and writers.

Designed for participants interested in elementary education.

Response to Intervention – What Is IT and How Will It Change Classroom Practices?

Charmaine Thaner

RTI is more than a way to identify specific learning disabilities. What are the implications for general education teachers and special education teachers? Join the discussion, examine best practices, and reflect how this will change what you do.

Designed for all participants interested in elementary or secondary education.



On Saturday, this session is primarily for parents; otherwise for all



SAW / WAS ≠ Dyslexia: What it is and What it's Not!

Jan Deaton

Learn about the latest medical findings on the causes and treatment of/for dyslexia, proven methods that allow students to be successful, methods to identify students who are at risk early so they will have a good chance of remediation. Based on research by Drs. Sallie and Bennett Shaywitz, et. al., from Yale University.

Designed primarily for parents and educators interested in elementary and secondary education.

Strategies for Success: Including Students With Disabilities in the Elementary General Education Classroom

Debbie Buchanan

Learn some of the best instructional practices for optimizing academic performance in general education classrooms. Differentiated instruction including engaging students' attention and active participation will be discussed. Various academic strategies, assistive technology and accommodations will also be shared.

Designed primarily for participants interested in elementary education in advanced stages of learning about or implementing inclusive practice.

Strategies for Success: Including Students with Disabilities in the Secondary General Education Classroom

Debbie Buchanan

Learn some of the best instructional practices for optimizing academic performance in general education classrooms. Differentiated instruction including engaging students' attention and active participation will be discussed. Various academic strategies, assistive technology and accommodations will also be shared.

Designed primarily for secondary parents, administrators, educators and paraeducators in advanced stages of learning about or implementing inclusive practice.

Tearing Numbers Apart to Build Up Skills

Beryl Horton

Additional ways to add, multiple ways to multiply. Games galore to hook your students! Learning to take numbers apart opens up many paths to learning. If there's more than one way to skin a cat, surely there's more than one way to solve a math problem!

Designed for all conference participants.

Testing Accommodations: Replacing Readers and Scribes

Bonnie Hill

Fostering independence is a primary goal of every educator. Using TESTALKER software as an oral reading and/or scribing accommodation, students with reading challenges can test independently. We'll prepare a test to be administered from any chosen testing location.

Designed primarily for educators, administrators and teachers-in-training interested in elementary and secondary education.

Texas Hold 'Em

Beryl Horton

Is it luck, guts or math? It's all three, but knowing the math makes you seem luckier and have a lot more confidence. Teaching students to physically handle cards will provide them with enjoyment throughout their lives. We will look at pairs and probability. Average students as young as second grade can improve their card-playing ability. We will play a few rounds as we learn, but no money will be wagered!

Designed for all conference participants.



Texas Project FIRST: Providing Accurate and Consistent Information for Parents

Laura Buckner

Texas Project FIRST (Families, Information, Resources, Support and Training): Learn about the project, tour the online resources and tell us what YOU need to know!

Designed for all conference participants.

Transition: Real Outcomes for Teen Dreams

Charmaine Thaner and Kathie Snow

Are transition plans leading to successful real-world outcomes—like employment or post-secondary education/training for teens? Students have hopes and dreams, and they'll need more than life skills classes and field trips to turn their dreams into reality!

Designed for all conference participants.

Universal Design for Learning – The Curricula Needs to Change, Not the Child

Charmaine Thaner

Teachers can design lessons from the beginning that have built-in flexibility to meet the diverse needs of students. Learn strategies to present concepts and skills and find out how to motivate learners and get them to demonstrate what they have learned.

Designed for all conference participants.

Visual Strategies to Enhance Communication and Positive Behaviors in the Early Childhood Classroom

Darla Sue Taylor and Becky Bilyeau

Explore some visual strategies to provide a strong support system to small children as they begin their educational journey together in an inclusive classroom! View different examples and share ideas.

Designed primarily for preschool general educators, paraeducators and teachers-in-training in the initial stage of learning about or implementing inclusive practice.



Voices of Friendship Part One - In But Not With: How Schools Help or Hinder the Development of Social Relationships

Carol Tashie

Friendship and a sense of belonging are essential to student achievement and successful outcomes. Yet many students with disabilities report that they lack real meaningful relationships. Learn to identify the barriers to friendship and examine the ways schools can help or hinder the development of social relationships.

Designed for all conference participants.



Voices of Friendship Part Two - School, Family and Community Strategies to Facilitate Friendships

Carol Tashie

Explore a wide variety of ways schools, families and communities can facilitate the development of friendships between students with and without disabilities. Learn strategies you can use to support meaningful relationships for the students you know and love.

Designed for all conference participants.

Web 2.0 Tools for the Differentiated Classroom

Kirk Behnke

Learn an overview of Web 2.0 tools which include webcasts/podcasts, blogs, wikis, social bookmarks, etc., to expand your supplemental curriculum to meet the learning and access needs of a diverse classroom. Ample resources and examples will be presented.

Designed primarily for educators and paraeducators in the initial stage of learning about or implementing inclusive practices.

What Are These Taxing TAKS Tests and How Do They Count?

Debbie Buchanan

Understand the options for students with disabilities in the Texas Assessment Program and learn how they impact state and federal accountability. Look at the TAKS, TAKS I, SDAA II, TAKS-Alt, LDAA and TAKS-M (Mystery) and determine the steps for making appropriate decisions in the administration of these tests for students with disabilities.

Designed primarily for participants in the advanced stages of learning about or implementing inclusive practice.



What I Want My Child's Teacher to Know (and How to Say It!)

Marth Vincent

Many teachers serving children with disabilities in their general education classrooms feel unprepared about how to work with students who have special needs. In the spirit of parent school partnerships learn ideas to share information with the teacher.

Designed primarily for parents and general educators in the initial stage of learning about or implementing inclusive practice.

When Classwide Behavior Support is Not Enough: Individualizing Positive Behavior Support

Dr. Josh Harrower

Learn strategies for assessing and intervening with students who display behavior challenges despite the effective implementation of classwide supports.

Designed for all conference participants.

Whose Meeting Is It? Student-Directed ARDs

Kathie Snow

Expect great outcomes when students are active participants in ARD meetings! They can share their dreams, demonstrate their strengths, and express their needs. And when they're invested in their own goals, success—for the student and the teacher—is assured!

Designed for all conference participants.

Why is He Flapping Like That? Supporting Movement Differences & Behavior in Students with Autism

Dr. Paula Kluth

Looking for new ways to understand the behaviors of students with autism, Down syndrome and other disabilities? Using film, simulation and discussion, explore how these learners struggle to cope with problems related to movement, thought, perception and memory.

Designed for all conference participants.



Working with School Staff to Identify Strategies to Help Your Child

Susan Fitzell

Learn strategies to help your child meet his or her learning potential, meet IEP goals and offer the greatest chance of success in school. This workshop offers a menu of options to choose from when deciding what IEP accommodations might help your child.

Designed for parents of elementary and secondary students.

Young Children Learning Together: Starting Community-Based Programs

Jo Ann Guilford

Explore how to establish community-based programs for preschool children with disabilities. Learn ways to identify community partners, consider fiscal issues and prepare both parents and staff for inclusive early childhood classrooms.

Designed for all conference participants interested in preschool.



On Saturday, this session is primarily for parents; otherwise for all

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Did you know?

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Don't miss presentations by arts education expert **Russell Granet** on **Thurs., March 1st: Inclusion, School Reform, & the Arts and Building a Quality Arts Program in your School.**



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