



What's New in Special Needs Resourcing

Volume 3 Issue 3
March 2011



Developmental Services Access Centre



Elmira District Community Living



Developing tomorrow's potential in today's children and youth



Region of Waterloo
SOCIAL SERVICES

It's hard to believe it's March already but that means spring should be just around the corner!

Check out a new bulletin feature— **“Quote of the Month”** which replaces SNAP Fast Facts.

Last month the focus of this bulletin were the concepts of integration and inclusion and how the two concepts are similar and different. This month I would like to expand on these ideas. Using the work of Marsha Forest and Jack Pearpoint, I would like to



expand further on the concept of inclusion. Jack is an international educator, author and publisher, and advocate for social change. He is the founder and director of Inclusion Press International. The late Marsha Forrest, Pearpoint's wife, was a remarkable leader, advocate and champion of inclusion for all.

This duo discussed inclusion in detail through articles I will reference: What is Inclusion? and Inclusion! The Bigger Picture.

What is Inclusion? The authors ask us to reflect on a time when we felt excluded, or outside of the loop. Typical responses include lonely, awful, scared. They then ask us to think of a time when we have felt welcomed, really included and to think about how we felt. Universally people use adjectives such as happy, great and wonderful. There we find the answer to the definition of inclusion and the feelings true inclusion invokes.
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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“ The point of inclusion is the belief that each of us is important, unique, sacred, in fact. We can only relate to others and begin to include them in our lives and our society if we have this primary belief...For this discovery, people often need help from somebody who "walks with them", an accompanier. One of the most important factors for inner liberation is how we are accompanied. We must ask ourselves “Who is walking with me?”

Jean Vanier



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The article discusses the notion “inclusion means welcome” and asks the question “why is welcoming people labeled disabled seen as an activity of the radical fringe”?

The article goes on to discuss what Forest and Pearpoint refer to as the “The Three Monsters” that they believe we face when inclusion is discussed.

These monsters include **Fear, Control and Change.**

Fear, the first monster is described as our question to ourselves “Will I be able to do this? “ We worry we may fail. As the article points out, we need to identify that the way to overcome fear is to “face the fear dragon; stare it down. Name it and move on”.

The authors identify the next monster as **control**. “We cannot control that we do not always have all of the answers when dealing with something new, and we may need to ask someone else for help, thus relinquishing some of the control.” Cooperation and collaboration thrive as control is replaced and fades into oblivion with fear.”

Change is the third identified “monster “. Pearpoint and Forest state that “inclusion is the beginning of change”. While inclusion is certain of bringing on change, we are reminded that change is never optional rather inevitable. Change, however, is likely to give us opportunity to grow if we let it! (continued on page 3)

THE RESOURCE CENTRE



Starting Jan. 2011, the Resource Centre’s hours will be changing to better accommodate the public. With the new hours, there will be staff available at all times to better serve you. The new hours are:

Tuesday & Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The Resource Centre will be closed Mondays and Fridays.

Call us at:
519-741-1122
Ext. 225

As a reminder, the Resource Centre has many kits for both teachers and parents. The topics of the teachers’ kits are **anger, attachment, bullying, movement, diversity, emotions, loss, self-esteem, sleep, social skills, and stress.** All of the kits contain a manual, books (on the topic), songs, and games/activities.

Drop in and borrow. It’s FREE!

For more information on the Child Care Special Needs Resourcing Partnership or to make a referral to the Child Care Special Needs Access Point please contact:

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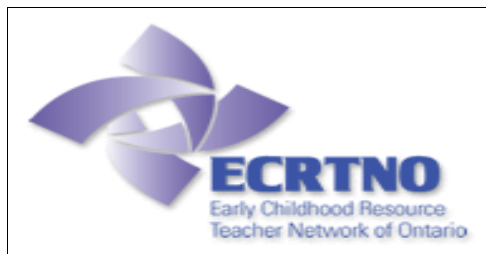
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I would like to conclude with quotes from the article What is Inclusion- "Inclusion is the foundation of the house. It is not a guarantee, but rather a precondition for the growth and development of full and healthy human beings". "Inclusion is the precondition for learning, happiness-for healthy living".

Next month I will focus on the challenges of inclusion, and suggestions for taking those challenges to opportunities.



Upcoming Professional Development Events



25TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
APRIL 27,28,29 2011 AT BLUE
MOUNTAIN RESORT IN
COLLINGWOOD

To register, or for more information log
onto www.ecrtno.ca

Current Research- Links

The articles quoted in this bulletin are taken from the Inclusion Network website mentioned at inclusion.com

Other Inclusion Resources

Inclusion– The Next Generation in Canada-book

- A Canadian Study into the resources needed to successfully include children with special needs in child care provides a snapshot of current inclusion practices in Canada.

available through [Breton Books](#)

SpecialLink Early Childhood Inclusion Quality Scale

- A tool for assessing inclusion quality in Early Learning and Child Care Programs

available through [Breton Books](#) or kidsLINK Resource Centre

Quality Inclusive Checklist (QIC)

- A self reflective tool for assessing inclusion in Early Learning and Child Care Programs

Available through the Early Childhood Resource Teacher Network of Ontario