

SPED NEWS

Staff Edition



October 2001
John Enloe, Director
Special Education
Sevier County Schools
Nancy Wohl, Layout

The Special Education Child and Sharing

by Dr. Cecil Blankenship
E.T.S.U.

Sharing is an important part of all our lives. Children need to learn how to share. When we share we build friendships with others. There are many ways teachers can teach children how to share. Children can be assigned classroom housekeeping chores such as taking care of classroom supplies and materials, organizing the classroom or

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Directors MEMO

As we begin another year of service to the exceptional children of Sevier County, I want to reiterate what I told you at our inservice on the 16th of August. Having worked with regular and special educators for close to 30 years, I am always amazed by the level of skill and dedication from the personnel of our system. It is a credit to each of you that our system is recognized as



having one of the best special education programs in the state, and this is something I have heard repeatedly from parents, state department personnel and directors of other special education programs.

One area of focus for our system and department this year relates to options of service for children eligible for special education and related services. It is essential that every child who deserves special education receive it and this includes related service areas such as speech/language, occupational and physical therapy, counseling, hearing and vision. When looking at folders you manage, pay attention to whether or not students are receiving all of the individual services to which they are entitled, and if they are not schedule meetings with the appropriate service providers to determine if those services should be added.

Finally, on October 8th, our systemwide inservice day, I would like to encourage all CDC teachers to attend an inservice at the Trula Lawson Center on Traumatic Brain Injury. The state has identified our county as one with significant numbers of TBI students and is providing appropriate support persons to conduct workshops and inservices with all appropriate and interested staff. Any teacher, special or regular education, who is working with a student with TBI is welcome to attend. Ms. Mary Joan McClure will conduct this session, and it will begin at 8:30 and conclude at 10:00am. At 1:00pm that same day, we will have an inservice on the needs of children with visual needs and it will be conducted through Project Pave out of Vanderbilt. All teachers working with children who have vision impairments are encouraged to attend. It will last approximately two hours. Hopefully, both workshops will provide important information to allow us to more effectively serve our exceptional students. Speech/Language Therapists will also meet from 1:00 to 3:00 the same day.

Next Inservice

January 8th, TLC, 3:45-5:45

Comparing

SPED and Section 504:

Legal Rights of Disabled
and Non-Disabled Students

AT Notes:

Speech Recognition Software

We frequently receive requests for software which would allow a student to dictate to a computer for generation of a written text. This speech recognition software is a dream come true for many but unfortunately it is not appropriate for everyone. Use of speech recognition software requires the following skills:

- ▶ The ability to express ideas with verbal language. Individuals interested in using this software should first practice writing through dictation. This can be accomplished by dictating an essay into a recorder and have someone type it exactly as you dictated. Next you must edit the text with all necessary punctuation. Many are surprised that this is not as easy as it seems. You must indicate beginning of sentences, paragraphs, all capitalizations and punctuations as you dictate. All vocalizations are recorded, you will see each "um", "er", or other noises written as part of your text.

- ▶ Appropriate syntactical speech patterns and consistency in enunciation. The software program must initially be trained to your pattern of speech. This is accomplished through hours of dictation to the program with correction of all misspelled words and misinterpreted commands. For example: I recently received an e-mail written through voice recognition which contained "end quote" where the user was apparently saying "end quote".

- ▶ Auditory and/or visual attending skills. The user must be able to listen or read carefully to proof material and correct errors.

- ▶ Motivation and perseverance. Training of voice recognition software may take 20-40 hours for the committed user to master the program. Students typically require longer training periods as well as a dedicated coach.

Other considerations for using voice recognition software include necessity of a good quality microphone, minimizing background noise before initiation of dictation and difficulty in use of program when voice is altered by a cold or other similar conditions.

Newsletter

Contributions for the newsletter can be submitted by the first Friday of the month to Nancy Wohl at the Trula Lawson Early Childhood Center or email: nwohl@yahoo.com

Sharing contd

helping their classmates.

Children need also to be taught that sharing does not mean giving away or sharing everything that belongs to them. Teachers could help students distinguish between what should and should not be shared. Sharing is one of the greatest acts of kindness human beings can show each other. Happy and respected people are those who have been taught to share from an early age. Everyone has experienced the positive feeling we have when we share.

New Staff

Carolyn Dougherty

Carolyn is one of the two new preschool teachers at the Trula Lawson Early Childhood Center. She moved to Sevier County from Pompano Beach, FL after teaching two years of resource and self contained 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. In her "free time" she enjoys gardening, reading and spending time with her family.

Jennifer Ownby

Jennifer is our other new preschool teacher. She is a Sevier County and UTK graduate joining us after a year teaching in a K-5 CDC in Knox County. Her after school interests are outdoor activities and of course UT football.

Homebound Services

If any Regular Education or Special Education teacher would be interested in becoming a Homebound teacher, contact Marla Whaley, the Homebound Coordinator at The Trula Lawson Early Childhood Center 453-1036 or 453-1037. The teacher and student work together to determine the schedule so the student receives three hours of contact each week

End the Day in a Good Way

Instead of wishing your child "sweet dreams" try giving them a genuine compliment each night before bed. Something like "you were so kind to Granpa today" or "I like the way you did your homework tonight." He/she may drift off feeling happy...and wake up happy too.

Source: Lucy Jo Pallandino, The Edison Trait. 1997. Alfred A. Knopf.
