

**Dr. Sandy Enloe**  
Director of Special Education

Sevier County Schools

# SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

**January, 2008**  
Staff Edition

**Editor:**  
**Dr. Kaye Thomas**

I hope all of you enjoyed your time off for the holidays and had a wonderful Christmas. With our days at school being so hectic, we all needed those days to rejuvenate.

Thank you for being diligent in checking the IEPs for correct hours. With the budget being so tight, we want to continue to make certain that we are counting all of the hours that we serve each student.

Remember to limit your time on the computers at school to school business. Anything that you write or send to someone can be read by others.  
Dr. Sandy Enloe

---

## Topics of Discussion:

Changing of the name of this newsletter from "SpEd Newsletter" to ??????. I changed the name to "Special Education Newsletter" until we have suggestions for changes. Just let me know at [kayethomas@sevier.org](mailto:kayethomas@sevier.org).

---

## Transferring or Exiting Students

Teachers should complete the monitoring checklist on any IEP folder before it leaves the school to go to Rebecca or to another county school. Remember, if it becomes evidence in a court case, it stays how it looked when it left us.

---

## What do you think?

**Some portion of our anatomy must be in contact with a chair at all times in order to learn.**

(See back of page for the research on this statement)

## Dates to Remember:

- Completed portfolios are due to Jeff Romanczuk at the SpEd office by February 6, 2008.
- Parent surveys are due to Dee Kilpatrick (with one tally per school) by February 15, 2008. These are on the parent link of the website, or directly at <http://www.slc.sevier.org/parentsurvey0708.doc>.
- Disability Days on the Hill - **March 12, 2008 for East Tennessee. Legislative Plaza, Nashville, TN.** It's time to get involved! Mark your calendar and start making your plans to come to Nashville today! Make appointments to meet with your senators and representatives on the day designated for your region of the state! Let them know what issues are important and how their decisions affect your life!

---

## Service Plan not IEP form

At the East Tennessee Special Education supervisor's session, Bill Wilson (a lawyer for the State Department), mentioned that we should NOT use the IEP forms to do service plans for private school students. The service plan has been added to EasyIEP (documents tab). While you are entering data, the term "IEP" is used ("start date of IEP," "date of IEP meeting," etc.). However, the final document says only that it is a service plan. At this point, we have no service plan documented. If you have written one or even assessed a student whose parents declined services, call Jeff Romanczuk.

## Web Sites

“Doing What Works” available at <http://www.ed.gov> provides an online library of resources for teaching practices that have proven to be effective. It includes:

- Videos of leading researchers
  - Slideshows illustrating strategies that have been successful in teaching
  - Downloadable tools to help teachers identify their strengths and weaknesses
- 

Educating Students On The Autism Spectrum  
Autism Spectrum Disorders are puzzling developmental disorders that significantly affect a student’s ability to communicate, interact with others, and learn in a conventional manner. Despite these difficulties, children with autism do grow and learn, albeit often at a different developmental rate than other children. Many educational approaches can significantly improve the quality of life of persons with autism and their families. While there is no known cure for autism, there are treatment and educational approaches that may reduce some of the challenges associated with the condition. Interventions will help to lessen disruptive behaviors, and education can teach self-help skills that allow for greater independence. But just as there is no one symptom or behavior that identifies individuals with autism, there is no single program that will be effective to meeting the needs of every student on the spectrum.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Autism, please feel free to contact me at the Special Education office.  
Veronica Smelcer

**What do you think?** (Answer to question posed on the front page.)

Actually, research shows that our ability to learn diminishes in direct proportion to the amount of time we spend sitting.

---

**Response to the “QUESTION OF THE MONTH: *What are some tips to motivate the unmotivated student?*”**

- Spend time one on one with the student discussing non-school issues.
- Know student’s ability level; adjust materials to match.
- Contract: expected behavior/rewards & consequences.
- Stand near student when giving instructions.
- Show an interest in student – ask his opinion.

If you have other tips, e-mail them to [kayethomas@sevier.org](mailto:kayethomas@sevier.org).

---

## **Food for thought:**

**I’ve come to a frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element in the classroom. It’s my personal approach that creates the climate. It’s my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I possess a tremendous power to make a child’s life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my responses that decide whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated and a child humanized or de-humanized. Hiam Ginott**