



News and Views

February, 2011 Volume IX, Number 6

We Are All People First

By Benjamin Snow, Grade 8
Woodland Park, Colorado

The words we choose to say show what our attitudes are. When you're describing a person who has a disability, you need to remember that we are all people first.

"Handicapped" isn't the right word to use when you're describing a person with a disability. It gets on my nerves when I hear that ugly word. I believe using that word shows an attitude that people with disabilities can't do some things.

We must learn to change our language and stop believing people with disabilities are different from anyone else. Disability is natural. We must stop believing that disabilities keep a person from doing something. Because that's not true.

I am 13 years old and I have a disability myself. I have cerebral palsy and I think of it as no big deal. I have earned two karate belts. I enjoy writing stories and plays and scripts. I have a part time job. But all of that has nothing to do with my disability. All of that is just about me as a person.

Having a disability doesn't stop me from doing anything. When someone has the attitude that people with disabilities can't do something, they're talking about me too. And that's just not true.

The words we choose show what we think. I think people with disabilities are just like everybody else, and we need to choose words that show that people with disabilities are people first. (Reprinted from TATRA Project, PACER Center, Minneapolis MN)

2010-11 Parent Educational Meetings

Sponsored by the Seneca-Wyandot Parent Mentor Program of The North Central Ohio Educational Service Center and The Seneca County Help Me Grow Family Support Specialist

All meetings are held at The Family Learning Center at Sentinel from 6:30-8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

"Handling Special Needs Behaviors"

The program will be an informal interactive presentation on Taming and avoiding behaviors of students.

By: Rudy Lawrence-Letzring, M. Ed.,
Behavior Specialist



February Meetings

Supervisor/Psych Meeting

February 18, 2011

10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

Tiffin Campus PD Room

Preschool Administrators Meeting

February 18, 2011

12:30—2:00 p.m.

Tiffin Campus PD Room

Speech Meeting

February 18, 2011

1:00—3:30 p.m.

Upper Sandusky Library





Orientation and Mobility

by Maryanne Laubner COMS

What is Orientation and Mobility or O&M? For a person with limited vision or blindness it means the ability to travel throughout his or her world safely and efficiently. It may mean an expanded world to someone once they learn the skills to travel even in unfamiliar places.

Orientation means "where am I?" in any particular space. It might be their home, office or a business area. Visually impaired people depend on landmarks and clues to let them know where they are. These landmarks usually are physical items that are permanent in the area being traveled. They might be fire hydrants, bushes or a fence outside; a post, shelf, or bright red fire extinguisher indoors. The clues used might be visual, auditory or even smells. If you can smell the cinnamon buns baking you are near that bakery. If there are traffic sounds getting louder you are approaching an intersection or the bright red sign is the visual clue for the shop you want to enter. With training and practice all these skills are put to use for safe travel by blind or visually impaired persons.

Mobility means being able to navigate safely and efficiently within their environment. A blind or visually impaired person may use a white cane or a dog to travel. Before a person is considered for a dog guide he or she must be able to travel safely with a cane. The cane is used to protect the person from colliding with objects, to detect drop offs or hazards, and to detect textures beneath their feet. Mobility training is done in a sequence of indoors to outdoors and from simple routes and their reverses to more complicated routes. The confidence of the traveler is a big factor in their success also.

There are a few points of etiquette to remember if you ever encounter a blind or visually impaired person traveling. If a blind or visually impaired person holding a white cane is poised to cross an intersection, they have the right-of-way once they safely enter that intersection. Many drivers try to "beat" the blind person through the intersection. If an intersection is confusing or difficult to cross, the blind or visually impaired traveler may ask for assistance to cross. Allow them to take your arm instead of you grabbing them. They will use a proper grip that will keep both of you safe. Remember, if a person is using a dog guide, it is working so please don't try to pet the dog. This traveling pair also has the right-of-way in the intersection.

Traveling for a blind or visually impaired person requires a lot of skill but once learned gives them much greater independence.

Understanding the Work Study Program

by Steve Gilbert, Work Study Coordinator

NCOESC provides a special program for today's high school students in Seneca County. As America's economy continues to struggle and more and more households have multiple incomes, more high school students are entering the world of work.

The Work Study program helps to provide guidance for this transition into the working world. Some of the skills that will be stressed with the students are interview skills, job application techniques, development of good habits and a positive attitude. A major benefit of the program is helping the student to understand why they are important to their job-site.

Today's high school student is under tremendous pressure to make decisions that will impact their lives while being in high school. They must make a career choice, pass the famous OGT tests and perform well in their academic classes. The problem is that they are given little time to be a normal high school student.

The Work Study program is designed to help them as they go through high school and make all these choices. Three main objectives that will be stressed with the students:

Do your best

Do what is right

Treat others as you want to be treated

As our world continues to change, we must be sure that we meet the needs of our most valuable resource—our students. The Work Study program is there to help meet the needs of our changing society and our changing students.

Autism

Fitting the pieces together For Teachers

Presenter: *Julie Donatini, M.Ed.*

Julie is a consultant and speaker for groups and schools. She has 9 years of experience as an Autism Home Based Consultant. She taught in various settings including 5 years working with students with multiple disabilities and on the autism spectrum.

April 7, 2011

Sign-in: 8:15

Session: 8:30-3:30

Lunch is on your own

State Support Team—Region 7

1495 W. Longview Ave.

Mansfield, OH 44906

6 Contact Hours—Certificates Available
Seating is limited—Register early

Learn more about: How to Fit the Puzzle Together!

- Facts and Myths Regarding the Autism Spectrum
- Behavior Strategies—supports, Systems & Reinforcers
- Social Strategies—Relationships With Peers
- And so much more!

Register on STARS

For help with registration, contact:

Lea DiBartolo—(419) 747-4808

Questions: Contact Denee Schlotterer—SST 7
(419) 747-4808

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