

Inclusive Schools Network News

June 2009

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Inclusive Schools Network

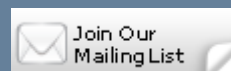
"Supporting Inclusive Education Worldwide"

The Inclusive Schools Network (ISN) is a web-based resource for families, schools, and communities interested in the topic of inclusive education. This network has grown out of Inclusive Schools Week™, an internationally-recognized, annual event sponsored by Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC). In 2009, ISN will be expanding its capacity to offer new products, conferences, online events, and social networking opportunities.



Great things happen in inclusive schools™

Inclusive Schools Network News is your source for updates and information about the Inclusive Schools Network, Inclusive Schools Week, and other resources and events related to building more welcoming and supportive schools and communities. Click below to subscribe:



ISN Resources & Events:

"High Performing, Inclusive Secondary Schools: A Leadership Institute"

A Two-Day Institute Specifically Designed for Teams of General and Special Educators Involved with Inclusive Education in Grades 6-12.

With Dr. Lisa Dieker, August 20 - 21, 2009,
at Education Development Center, Inc., Newton, MA.

The program commences with a two-day summer institute and concludes with an online follow-up opportunity in the fall, resulting in team developed action plans. During the summer institute, participants will engage in lectures, learning activities, and action planning sessions. Content will build on knowledge and skills in effective strategies for inclusion at the secondary level and leadership development. Participants will complete action steps between the summer and the fall follow-up session and have the opportunity to share successes and problem-solve with faculty and peers. The follow-up session in the fall will include webinar discussion opportunities through the Inclusive Schools Network.



[Click Here To Learn More and Register Now!](#)

The 9th Annual Inclusive Schools Week
December 7 - 11, 2009
Save the Dates!

Featured Events:

Including Samuel on PBS

The documentary *Including Samuel* will be broadcast on New Hampshire Public Television on May 23rd and 24th, 2009, and will be broadcast on PBS stations nationally this fall. To read more about this film, purchase the DVD, or view clips of

filmmaker Dan Habib discussing his work and the importance of inclusive educational practices, go to:

http://www.inclusiveschools.org/ISN_Video_Including_Samuel_Discussion

**Toronto Summer Institute
on Inclusion, Community and Diversity
July 11-16, 2009**

Early Bird registration is now taking place for the Toronto Summer Institute on Inclusion, Community and Diversity. The Institute will be held at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada, during the week of July 11-16. Download the Institute pamphlet for more information about this event and early registration:

<http://www.inclusion.com/2009torontopamphlet.pdf>.

Tip of the Month:

Last year's June 2008 Tip of the Month is back by popular demand:

Stay Sharp with Summer Activities that Promote Skills Maintenance!

For many children and families, summer is a nice break from the routines and demands of the regular school year. However, there is evidence that most students experience some loss of skills during this extended vacation, and that some students with disabilities show significant skills regression in the absence of structured, daily instruction. So while summer is a time for children to relax and play, it can also provide many unique and rich opportunities for learning, skill-building and skills-maintenance.

Before a student's summer vacation begins, parents and educators should work

together to identify areas of potential regression and skills-loss, and to plan activities and interventions that address the student's individual needs:

- For students who are likely to lose important, fundamental math and language arts skills over the summer, plan a weekly, or even daily, routine of academic exercises to address those skills. These exercises should be relatively short and target both basic and higher-order skills. For example, a student might reinforce a wide range of math competencies by practicing computation for 10 - 20 minutes and then using those same operations to solve a few related word problems.

- Help students identify high-interest reading materials for the summer, and set goals to encourage regular reading practice.
- Give students opportunities to reinforce their writing and composition skills. Journal writing and weekly reflections are excellent ways to build regular writing practice into a student's summer routine. Students can also develop their writing skills by corresponding with friends and family in letters, postcards, and even by email.
- Students who are likely to experience significant regression may be eligible for Extended School Year (ESY) services. Check your state's eligibility criteria and explore ESY options for students who may require more structured support to maintain academic and/or functional skills.

Summer is also a great time to explore a variety of alternative learning and enrichment opportunities:

- Not all summer camps are the same! Some camps are specifically designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities, or have supports in place to help those students participate with their non-disabled peers. Also, some camps and summer programs have a specific focus or theme (sports, computers, writing, theatre, etc.). Explore the range of options available for the student and consider his/her needs and interests in selecting an appropriate program.
- Many public institutions, such as libraries, parks and museums, offer various summer programs for children. Look to these institutions within your community for unique, high-interest enrichment opportunities.
- The internet can be a great resource for supporting children in skill-building and independent learning during the summer and throughout the school year. Some free educational websites offer games and activities for children to use online, and also provide information and ideas to support parents and educators in planning learning activities for children:
 - o **PBS Kids** - <http://pbskids.org>
 - o **Thinkfinity** - <http://thinkfinity.org>

In addition, many commercial educational websites host some free sample-versions of activities and games, or provide limited access to their resources with free trial subscriptions. Try some quick online search using keywords like "educational", "learning", "lessons", "resources", "activities", and "games" to find other useful websites.

To view Tips from previous ISN Newsletters, visit the Tip of the Month section of the Inclusive Schools website at: <http://inclusiveschools.org/tips.cfm>

Featured Resource:

The Co-Teaching Lesson Plan Book (3rd Edition) Academic Year Version Dr. Lisa A. Dieker, Ph.D.

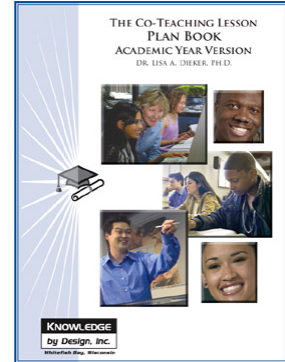
This unique lesson plan book is designed to be completed and shared between a general education teacher and a special education teacher.

The third edition of this best-selling plan book has been revised and updated to gather evidence of academic and behavioral adaptations as required by IDEA. In addition, planning tools for standard and modified assessment will facilitate efforts to monitor student performance and achievement of NCLB goals.

Includes weekly strategies and monthly notes from the author that offer insight about the value, the art, and the impact of co-teaching. Supports 36-weeks.

For more information, or to order online, visit:

<http://www.knowledge-by-design.com/planbook.html>



Inclusive Practices Around the World:

The Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES), a division of the Council for Exceptional Children, is a membership organization - including individuals from 40 countries and jurisdictions around the world - that aims to improve educational outcomes for children or youth with exceptional educational needs through international communication, cooperation, and progress in special education programs and services. Members receive DISES publications and professional development, and have access to worldwide e-mail networks.

For more information, please visit the [DISES Web site](#)

Follow Us on Twitter!

To follow us on Twitter, click on the following link:

<http://twitter.com/ISchoolsNetwork>

Support Inclusive Schools Network and Inclusive Schools Week!

Here's how YOU can make a difference:

Your purchase of products or tax-deductible contribution supports the work we are doing to support families, schools, and communities around the world to create awareness, build knowledge, and encourage systems change toward more inclusive educational opportunities for all children. We are a nonprofit, 501 (c) (3) organization, and we are extremely grateful for your support!

ISN products are available for purchase online! Use these items, including Celebration Kits, posters, pencils and much more, to promote your 2009 Inclusive Schools Week celebration and to raise awareness about inclusive educational practices throughout the year. This year, ISN is delighted to be collaborating with the Federation for Children with Special Needs, who will host the official online store for ISN products. To view these products, order online, or download a PDF order form, please visit our new **Products Page and Secure Online Order Form**:

<https://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/orderform.html>

Click here to **download a contribution form** and make a donation today:

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org/files/Contribution%20Form.pdf>