

C/SE ABLE News

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February 2008

Literacy Center Symposium 2008

The ABLE Kickoff has been a popular professional development activity for ABLE staff over the years. Those of you who are regular attendees know the quality of this professional event grows year after year. One of the exciting and unique aspects of our Kickoff is the opportunity to interact with literacy faculty and staff from Ohio University as well as providers of literacy services to learners of all ages.

This year we are changing the name of our annual fall event to the Literacy Symposium.

The event will still take place on September 19 in Athens at the beautiful Baker Center. The focus is technology in education. The official theme of the symposium is, "**Technology in Education for Literacy and Learning.**" We are also offering a pre-conference on September 18 to those attendees who wish to spend more time working with and learning specific software applications.

We are collaborating with other university offices to bring **Dr. Johnathon Kozol** to the Symposium as our keynote speaker. He has also graciously

agreed to offer a break-out session in the afternoon. Don't miss it!

The Call for Presenters for the Symposium will be coming out soon. We hope you can attend and consider presenting a session at our annual Literacy event.



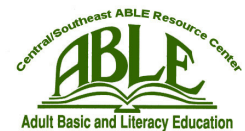
Sharon Reynolds

Regional Site Visits Coming Your Way!

Mary Barbara and Kate are busy planning site visits for the spring. We have redesigned our site visits and are moving away from "show and tell" to demonstration of how to use the resources

from our library with your ABLE students. The site visit team will work through several brief activities with your students an talk about how these activities address the ABLE standards and benchmarks.

Watch out—they may be headed to an ABLE program near you!



Don't miss this!

- Request extra copies of the Success Calendar 2008—Call Kate Fergus
- Save the date! The literacy center's annual event takes place September 19, 2008!

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Special Needs Steering Committee | 2 |
| Behavioral Optometry | 3 |
| PD Opportunities | 4 |



Ohio ABLE Special Needs Steering Committee - Recent Field Trips

The Special Needs Steering Committee has been visiting various agencies and offices across the state that offer services to individuals with disabilities as well as services our struggling learners may find useful. Last quarter the group visited **Columbus Speech and Hearing Center**. We learned about the Comprehensive Program for the Deaf in which employment counselors travel to companies who employ deaf adults and assist the employee and employer adjust. You can read more about their services at

<http://www.columbusspeech.org/>

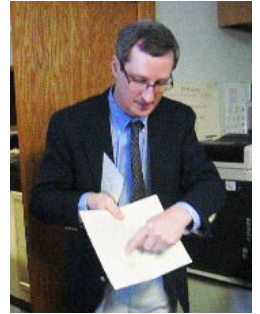
There have been over 3,500 individuals served (from across Ohio) and 96% have been placed in competitive employment. The program is strengthened by relationships with many reputable businesses that offer work experiences for the consumers.

CPD offers a variety of services including Work Evaluation, Vocational and Educational Exploration, Employee Development, Job Seeking Skills, Job Development & Job

Placement, Job Intervention (job save), Job Coaching & Follow-Along, and Assistive Equipment Assessments. Most of the aforementioned services can be accessed through the Crane Communication Center which is housed in the CPD program and offers consumers the opportunity to research, learn and train online through the internet. Each consumer's program is individualized. The kinds of services they receive depend on their individual goals and needs. The CPD staff is skilled in the areas of deafness, deaf culture and communication, and are trained in the fields of education, rehabilitation, deafness, and counseling.

The Special Needs Steering Committee's most recent visit was to **Dr. Dean Streff's** office in Lancaster, Ohio. Dr. Streff is a behavioral optometrist. Behavioral optometry is a specialized area of study for optometrists. Dr. Streff demonstrated the types of assessment that he uses to determine if visual

therapy is recommended for his clients. He also demonstrated the types of activities used in visual therapy.



Performance lenses are often prescribed for patients to assist in improving vision performance.

There are not very many of these specialized doctors in Ohio. You can locate a behavioral optometrist at www.covd.org or www.oed.org.

You can read more about behavioral optometry in the article on the next page or at <http://www.optometrists.org/streff/index.html>

Free Classroom Resources

FYI - Below is a resource some of you might find useful. Those of you who have visited our booths at various conferences may recognize some of the material. We have displayed many of the items from time to time (for example, the bullying resources and some of the parenting brochures). Take a look. We hope you find the information useful.

USEP-OHIO, Inc.

Ohio Resource Network Clearinghouse

www.EBasedPrevention.org

Serving the state of Ohio

Free Substance Abuse and Violence

Prevention Materials for Your Community

Free - Ohio citizens may obtain free materials related to substance abuse and violence prevention through the Ohio Resource Network Clearinghouse.

There is also no cost for shipping and handling. A selection of over 700 different items include resources for prevention and treatment professionals, and informational brochures, booklets, toolkits and posters for all age groups.

Convenient - View descriptions of the materials by category and place your order on our online clearinghouse at

www.EBasedPrevention.org

The Clearinghouse materials list is located under "Materials", then, "By Category". Select the item(s) you desire and add to your cart.

Timely - Orders are usually processed within 4-6 business days.

The ORN Clearinghouse may be able to accommodate larger orders for your school and community events.

For more information, please contact us at 1-800-788-7254, option #3 or

(614) 540-9991.

What is Behavioral Optometry?

What is Behavioral Optometry?

How does your visual performance shape up against the demands placed on your visual system :

- at work
- at home
- at school
- at play?

You may not be aware of it, but your visual system brings you much information about your world. When you look at something, you don't just "see" with your eyes; you inspect, discriminate, identify and interpret - all as a part of your visual system.

Behavioral optometry is an expanded area of optometric practice. When you visit your behavioral optometrist, you may notice a difference in your examination. You will find that you are tested for specific visual skills. You may find that many of your questions about vision are answered. And you will receive the clinical guidance you need to develop the skills which provide for an efficient visual system.

Why Behavioral Optometry?

Our ancestors had hunter's eyes for survival in the wilderness; their vision was designed for spotting game and enemies at a distance.

In the last 100 years we have been forced to deal with sustained, near visual tasks and the resulting stress on the visual system has produced many symptoms and problems.

If you experience headaches, blurred vision, tired, itchy or watery eyes or other vision linked problems, you may already know how uncomfortable sustained visual stress can feel. Your discomfort may be related to the heavy vision load of working at near distances.

If you are a student, you may read almost three times the number of textbooks your grandparents did. If you are employed in an office, you probably use your visual system for hours of close-up work. If you work with computers, you may spend much of your day looking at a computer screen.

These tasks can all contribute to visual stress.

Even if you have "20/20 eyesight," you may have difficulty working at close tasks. The term "20/20" means you can see well at distances of 20 feet or more, it does not usually refer to how well you see at 12-16 inches, the distance at which you do most of your close work.

There is a solution.

Your behavioral optometrist has studied the effects of stress on vision. Through the use of carefully selected stress-relieving and preventive lenses and visual training, you can enjoy relief from even the most stressful close-up visual conditions.

More About Behavioral Optometrists

Your behavioral optometrist takes a holistic approach to vision care. You are treated as a whole person and your visual problem as a part of the whole system. Your behavioral optometrist works with you and your children, rather than doing something to you. You and your children will receive help in developing the important visual skills you may need to reach academic and professional goals.



Even the visual achievement of successful learners and earners can be enhanced through behavioral optometric care.

Who Needs a Behavioral Optometrist?

Behavioral vision care is useful to virtually all patients. However, the following individuals will especially benefit:

- Children of all ages, but especially children just starting school.
- Children who are having trouble with reading or learning.
- Children who seem to be uncoordinated in visually demanding sports.
- Children who are considered "behavior problems"
- Children who are reading "below their potential."

- Anyone who participates in athletics and wants improved performance.
 - Anyone who works at a computer.
 - Anyone who has a visually demanding job.
 - Anyone who suffers from burning, itchy eyes, eye strain or visual fatigue (with no medical eye problem).
- See your family optometrist annually.

More Good News... If your behavioral optometrist prescribes visual training (also called vision therapy) for you, and even if your medical insurance does not cover eye-glass prescriptions, your major medical may cover visual training. Visual training often falls under the category of physical therapy. It usually involves a series of visits during which you perform specific activities to remediate your vision problem under the close supervision of a professional.

The office staff can help you determine if your policy covers visual training and with their help, you can submit the proper claim and receive entitled benefits.

What Is a Behavioral Optometrist?

Behavioral optometrists spend years in post-doctoral education to master the complex visual programs prescribed to prevent or to normalize -visual problems and enhance visual performance. Behavioral optometry is an umbrella term which also includes developmental and functional optometric practices. Not all optometrists practice behavioral optometry. To find one who does, call or write Optometric Extension Program Foundation Vision Extension. If you do not now visit a behavioral optometrist, call or write the OEP Foundation for a referral list in your area.

From www.pavevision.org and Optometric Extension Program Inc.

Regional Professional Development

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|-----------|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Friday | 02/29/2008 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM | <u>Assessment Fundamentals</u> | Ohio University - Lancaster |
| Thursday | 03/06/2008 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | <u>CCIP Training for Central/Southeast</u> | Ohio University - Athens |
| Friday | 03/07/2008 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM | <u>Learning Disabilities 202</u> | OU - Chillicothe |
| Saturday | 03/08/2008 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | <u>New Teacher Orientation II</u> | Ohio University - Athens |
| Friday | 03/14/2008 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | <u>New Teacher Orientation II</u> | Ohio University - Athens |
| Friday | 03/14/2008 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM | <u>The Art of Building Vocabulary</u> | Eastland-Fairfield Career Center |
| Friday | 03/14/2008 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM | <u>Advanced ABLELink</u> | Southern State Community College |
| Saturday | 03/15/2008 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM | <u>Advanced ABLELink</u> | Southern State Community College |
| Monday | 03/17/2008 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | <u>Spring Director's Meeting</u> | OU - Chillicothe |
| Wednesday | 04/16/2008 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | <u>Statewide Algebra Day</u> | Columbus, OH |
| Wednesday | 04/16/2008 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | <u>Integrating Family Learning Activities into the ABLE Classroom</u> | Columbus, OH |
| Wednesday | 04/16/2008 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | <u>Lesson Planning Meets the Wild, Wild West</u> | Columbus, OH |
| Wednesday | 04/16/2008 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | <u>Learning Disabilities 202</u> | Columbus, OH |
| Wednesday | 04/16/2008 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM | <u>The Portfolio Connection: Connecting Teaching and Learning</u> | Columbus, OH |
| Wednesday | 04/16/2008 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM | <u>BEST Plus Training</u> | Columbus, OH |



The Literacy Center

338 McCracken Hall
Ohio University
Athens, Ohio
45701

(800)753-1519 *phone*

(740)593-2834 *fax*

<http://www.ohio.edu/literacy>

<http://www.able-ohiou.org>

Don't forget to visit the [Resource Center Library](#) for new and exciting materials that you can use in your classroom!

Check out:

- English on a Roll
- Hands-on Equations
- Weights and measures kit
- GED Accommodations kit
- Reading Pen
- Low Level Readers—Classroom Sets

<http://tinyurl.com/2cc9ae>