



J.E.S.S.E. Newsletter

April 2016

Professional Development Opportunities

Article 7 Class - June 14, 15, 16 (8:30-11:30 each day) @ JESSE Office

PGP available for participation. This is an abbreviated version of the same class Dave Walker has offered over the past few years. Class is free and open to all teachers, administrators, or other educational professionals interested. If you haven't already sent an email expressing interest, please contact Rob Richards to reserve your spot.

Autism Teams

In an attempt to improve awareness, evidence-based practices, and overall effectiveness in our education of students with autism, we are looking to help school corporations and/or service districts in developing autism teams. Some school corporations already have this in place to one degree or another, while other schools may not have explored the idea. For those who are interested in setting up some sort of "autism team" for their corporation, please send me an email. In addition, here are some training opportunities for autism teams provided by Cathy Pratt from the Indiana Resource Center for Autism (IRCA):

<https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/styles/iidc/defiles/IRCA/IRCATeamTraining2016andApplication.pdf>



Differentiation is a hot topic in education today. Here's an excellent website with many ideas and strategies for differentiation in various subjects. The site was developed by Paula Kluth who is more-or-less the "Differentiation Guru." She was also at the Focus on Inclusion conference in Indianapolis back in February.

Differentiation Daily: <http://differentiationdaily.com/>

Special Education Licensing

Over the years, the rules for special education licensing has changed. Teachers are only able to serve as Teacher of Record (TOR) for certain disability areas based on their licensing credentials. Some teachers throughout the JESSE co-op are well aware of their special education licensing credentials, while others may not be as sure. In addition, some teachers are licensed P-12, K-12, or K-6. Please refer to the link to see the Indiana Department of Education's chart of special education licensing.

<http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/licensing/exceptional-needs-jan-26-2016-2.pdf>

Direct Behavior Rating (DBR)

DBR involves rating of behavior following a specified observation period, and then sharing of that information to inform decisions. DBR offers many options to link connections across assessment, intervention, and communication uses. DBR provides a simple and inexpensive option for frequent feedback about important behaviors, facilitating communication among students, parents, and educators. Most importantly, DBR is **evidence-based** and would serve as a helpful tool in the RTI process. <http://dbr.education.uconn.edu/>