



J.E.S.S.E. Newsletter

December 2016



Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Collaborative & Proactive Solutions...for Behavioral Challenges

When it comes to dealing with challenging behaviors in schools, too often the conversation immediately goes to punishments or change of placement. Other times, the focus is on reinforcement or motivational factors. We need to adjust our thinking when it comes to dealing with challenging behaviors. When students have reading or math deficits, what do we do? - We provide interventions and TEACH them skills. When students have behavioral challenges, what do we do? - Unfortunately...we punish or focus on the wrong aspects. Instead, we need to have the same mindset as we do for academics - we need to TEACH. Dr. Ross Greene, Ph.D., the author of *The Explosive Child*, believes that whether a child is behaviorally challenging or not, collaboration is the key to improved relationships, better communication, and solving problems. Challenging behavior communicates that the kid doesn't have the **skills** to meet certain demands and expectations. The overt behaviors we see from challenging students are merely signals or symptoms of deeper issues. Dr. Greene uses an assessment tool to help schools (and parents) drill down to the root of problems. His philosophy is to identify their lagging skills and unsolved problems. The [Assessment of Lagging Skills & Unsolved Problems \(ALSUP\)](#) is an effective tool that Dr. Greene has developed, which if used properly, can really help get down to the root of a student's problems. Stay tuned for future professional development opportunities....

In the meantime, here is a link to Dr. Greene's website- *Lives in the Balance*, which contains several FREE resources for educators and parents. In addition, there are many videos on YouTube, which provide more insight to Dr. Greene's methods and approaches towards behavioral challenges.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL96FCD5F40215BB70>

Indiana IEP Updates!

Just a friendly reminder- updates to IIEP are always provided in the announcements on Learning Connection in the IIEP Community. "Paper format for testing" was recently added to the list of accommodations for standardized assessments. Also, "small group testing" was re-added to the list. Keep this in mind when preparing for ISTEP testing - make changes sooner rather than later.

Focus on Inclusion Conference - Feb. 21-22. Indianapolis

The Sixth Annual Focus on Inclusion Conference will kick off with a welcome from Dr. Pamela Wright, Director, Indiana Department of Education, Office of Special Education followed by a keynote address by the State Superintendent-Elect, Dr. Jennifer McCormick. Two rounds of concurrent sessions will follow including several highly regarded local and national presenters. This conference is always one of the best in our state regarding special education - we strongly encourage schools to consider sending a team to attend...

<https://www.indianaieprc.org/index.php/focus-on-inclusion>



Additional Trainings hosted by the Indiana IEP Resource Center- Goal Writing (free)

This session explores the process necessary to write effective, standards-based annual goals. The workshop will teach participants a method for unpacking grade level standards, aligning goals to the standards, components of measurable goals, and methods of data collection for monitoring student progress. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn and use goal planning tools, and to practice developing annual goals based on student data and grade level academic content standards.



<https://www.indianaieprc.org/index.php/iep-processes-group/writing-standards-based-goals-and-measuring-progress>

Evaluation and Eligibility Decisions

-Staff Development-

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Exact locations and start times will come in an email.

- Culver: Jan. 9
- North Judson: Jan. 18
- Argos: Jan. 26
- Oregon Davis: Feb. 6
- John Glenn: Feb 7
- Knox: Feb 8
- Triton: Feb. 9
- Union North: Feb. 16
- Plymouth: Feb. 21

