



CDCI Connections

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT CENTER ON DISABILITY AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION

Spring Retreat



CDCI will meet March 6th for our Spring Retreat. The meeting will be held at Waterman, Grace Coolidge Room, from 9-4. There will be a two hour block of time for Teams to meet and work on tasks. Come prepared to work with your team:

- Research
- Community Service and Outreach
- Dissemination
- Interdisciplinary Training
- Infrastructure
- Special Projects

Other CDCI Stories:

- Upcoming COACH Training: There is still time to Register!
- 3 New Journal Articles Published by CDCI Faculty
- I-Team completes successful Autism Spectrum Disorders Statewide Trainings
- Universal Design for Learning is up and running.
- New faces at CDCI



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*CDCI Staff Assistant
Susannah Venbjerg,
with Kathleen
Raymond's new
granddaughter Hailey.*

3 New Journal Articles Published by CDCI Faculty



Marie Christine Potvin, with co-authors Patricia Prelock of UVM, and Laurie Snider of McGill University, authored the article

“**Collaborating to Support Meaningful Participation in Recreational Activities of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder,**” published in the journal, *Topics of Language Disorders*. The article looks at the complex factors that impede participation in recreation activities of children with ASD, particularly the need for professionals to work with parent to enhance participation and enjoy the same recreation activities as others. The authors describe the application of family-centered care and collaborative teaming principles to maximize such participation.

Mary Beth Doyle, of St. Michael’s College, and Michael Giangreco of CDCI published “**Making Presentation Software Accessible to High School Students with Intellectual Disabilities,**” in *Teaching Exceptional Children*. The article looks at how teachers can use the principles of Universal Design to facilitate the inclusion of students with severe intellectual disabilities in general education settings. In particular, they look at what adaptations should be made when prepar-



ing software-based presentations, and also how best to organize team members to help general education teachers prepare necessary instructional materials and adaptations.



Michael Giangreco of CDCI, Sean Hurley of UVM, and Jesse Suter of CDCI, recently published “**Special Education Personnel Utilization and General Class Placement of Students**

with Disabilities: Ranges and Ratios.” Published in the *American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, the article gathers state by state data on students with disabilities nationwide, providing each state’s total number of students with disabilities, percentage of students with disabilities in general education, number of special educators and paraeducators by state, and more. It is hoped that use of the data may assist schools in being proactive in designing their special education service delivery in ways that are consistent with the IDEA pledge to ensure a free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment.

For a copy of these articles, contact Michaella Collins (michaella.collins@uvm.edu) at CDCI.

I-Team completes successful Autism Spectrum Disorders Statewide Trainings

The Vermont I-Team recently conducted a hands-on workshop for professionals and families on teaching important skills to students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The theme of the workshop, "Let's Get Real: Authentic Instruction," stressed the importance of teaching through meaningful activities, across a variety of typical settings that a student may experience. The workshops drew over 260 participants at four locations throughout Vermont.

The participants looked at ways to make instruction more systematic and meaningful to students and their families, seeking answers to questions such as:

- How do we bridge the gap between isolated instruction and instruction in authentic real life situations?
- How do we analyze the activity so that we can provide the appropriate accommodations/supports and instruction so the student can be successful?

- How do we provide accommodations/supports that facilitate rather than inhibit participation?

Some participants attended as a team, focused on a particular student. This model proves to be one of the most effective ways to institute new strategies. One teacher said, "I was thrilled to have one of my parents on our caseload attend. She felt very validated." A parent participant commented, "I really learned a lot from a parent's perspective." And from one team member: "We are leaving with plans for our student to start using tomorrow!"

If you are interested in having I-Team personnel provide local training in your school, contact Tim Fox, I-Team coordinator (timothy.fox@uvm.edu).

There is still time to sign up for this Spring's **COACH** Workshop!

COACH means Choosing Outcomes and Accommodations for Children: a process for planning Individualized Education Programs for students ages 3-22 with moderate and severe disabilities, based on the principles of the COACH Manual. This three Day Workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn, South Burlington, March 12 & 13, 2009 with follow up May 7, 2009. Costs are discounted for teams, and parents of students on IEPs. COACH is presented by Ginny Iverson, Educational Consultant for the Vermont State I-Team, and Chigee Cloninger, Professor Emerita, University of Vermont/CDCI. Registration deadline is Feb. 28th, so act soon! Contact Louise Lynch (email: louise.lynch@uvm.edu or call 802-656-7122).



The new Universal Design for Learning Project is up and running. Team members work throughout campus, but are headquartered at CDCI, in Mann Hall. **Cristal LeGault** is available at the UDL office most days, for project information and scheduling. The team is now focusing on developing a consulting team of faculty, staff, and graduate students who will provide technical assistance and support to incorporate UDL principles throughout the UVM campus. One team member, **Nick Ogrizovich**, is now spending Wednesdays in the UDL office in Mann Hall. Nick is an Information Technology Professional at UVM's Academic Support Programs. He is providing technology assistance to the UDL grant. If you would like to meet and talk with Nick, please contact Cristal for opportunities when interpreters will be available to facilitate. The UDL team is also collaborating with the Center on developing training for CDCI personnel on UDL principles and practices. Look for more information on that soon! Check out the new UDL web site for news! www.uvm.edu/~cdci/universaldesign/

Welcome

Leslie Ermolovich has joined the Center as a new Business Support staff. She will work with the Center's Business team, and support Susan Ryan. Stop in and say hello to Leslie, in 302C Mann Hall.



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