

13th Annual Inclusion Conference

Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges: Birth to 21

Thursday, May 3, 2007

8:00 am—3:15 pm

Sheraton Dover Hotel & Conference Center
1570 N. DuPont Highway
Dover, Delaware



Schedule of Events

8:00 am Registration Check In Continental Breakfast	<i>Workshop Options (select only one)</i>
8:45 am Keynote Address	1) Supporting Meaningful Learning for All
10:15 am - 12:15 pm Workshops	2) Creating the Inclusive Climate: Helping students' social and emotional development
12:15 - 1:15 pm Complimentary Lunch	3) EmPOWER: A strategic approach to teaching expository writing within inclusion classrooms
1:15 - 3:15 pm Workshops Continue	4) Inclusion for Birth Through Five: Count Them In



Keynote Address: 6.5 Lessons Learned after a Decade of Inclusion

What is inclusion? Why does inclusive education matter? How do children, families, and communities change as a result of inclusive schooling practices? This keynote will answer these questions and more.

Douglas Fisher, Ph.D., is a Professor of Language and Literacy Education in the Department of Teacher Education at San Diego State University, the Co-Director for the Center for the Advancement of Reading at the California State University Chancellor's office, and the past Director of Professional Development for the City Heights Educational Collaborative. He is the recipient of an International Reading Association Celebrate Literacy Award, the Farmer Award for excellence in writing from the National Council of Teachers of English, as well as a Christa McAuliffe award for excellence in teacher education. He has published numerous articles on reading and literacy, differentiated instruction, and curriculum design as well as books, such as *Creating Literacy-rich Schools for Adolescents* (with Gay Ivey), *Improving Adolescent Literacy: Strategies at Work* (with Nancy Frey), and *Teaching English Language Learners: A Differentiated Approach* (with Carol Rothenberg). He has taught a variety of courses in SDSU's teacher-credentialing program as well as graduate-level courses on English language development and literacy. An early intervention specialist and language development specialist, he has taught high school English, writing, and literacy development to public school students. Contact Doug at dfisher@mail.sdsu.edu.

WORKSHOPS

1) Supporting Meaningful Learning for All

Douglas Fisher focuses on the supports and strategies necessary for students with and without disabilities to engage in meaningful learning. We explore the triangle of supports—curriculum, personnel, and technology—that can be used to create inclusive service delivery. In addition, we will focus on curriculum accommodations and modifications and the evidence for inclusive schooling practices.

2) Creating the Inclusive Climate: Helping students' social and emotional development

For inclusion to be truly effective, all students need to have a sense of belonging. **Debby Boyer and Brian Touchette** will focus on strategies to enhance the social and emotional development of adolescents to create a positive school climate. Specific strategies and practices to enhance social skills, build empathy, and develop character that are currently in use in some Delaware middle and high schools will be shared.

Debby Boyer, MS, is the School-Age Services Unit Coordinator at the Center for Disabilities Studies at the University of Delaware and co-directs the Positive Behavior Support Initiative and the Inclusive Schools Initiative. She provides training and technical assistance to Delaware Public Schools and oversees the implementation of Positive Behavior Support and Inclusive principles and practices in schools and other agencies in the state. (<http://www.udel.edu/cds/pbs/>) **Brian Touchette** has worked at the Delaware Department of Education for almost six years as an Education Associate. Prior to this, he taught students with autism in various school settings. At the Department he is assigned to the Exceptional Children/Early Childhood Education Workgroup; however, he is equally involved with the Assessment and Analysis Workgroup. His primary responsibilities include the Positive Behavior Support Initiative and also the State assessment for children with disabilities (the Delaware Alternate Portfolio Assessment and accommodations for the Delaware Student Testing Program).

3) EmPOWER: A strategic approach to teaching expository writing within inclusion classrooms

Bonnie Singer will explore how various systems (e.g., cognitive, linguistic, motoric, affective, self-regulatory) support and constrain the written expression abilities of all students. This understanding will provide teachers with a framework for assessing students' writing performance and differentiating instruction. We will explore how EmPOWER, a systematic approach for teaching expository writing in general education classrooms and inclusive settings, supports such instructional goals. The research-based design of the EmPOWER approach will be presented along with instructional strategies that can be used immediately with all students in a general education classroom. This presentation is appropriate for general and special education teachers, speech-language pathologists, reading/literacy specialists, curriculum directors, and school administrators.

Bonnie Singer, Ph.D., President/CEO, Architects for Learning, is a certified speech-language pathologist who holds masters and doctoral degrees in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Formerly an instructor in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department at Emerson College, Dr. Singer founded AFL in 1996, where she consults with schools nation-wide and directs a staff that provides academic assessment and intervention services. She is dedicated to developing effective teaching and learning strategies for students who are struggling academically (especially in the area of written expression) and assisting teachers and school systems across the country with addressing the diverse instructional needs of students so that they are able to reach their full potential in school and in life. Her research and numerous publications focus on the ways in which language and cognition overlap to support and constrain language, learning, reading, and written expression in school age children. (<http://www.architectsforlearning.com>)

4) Inclusion for Birth Through Five: Count Them In

10:15 a.m. Introduction to Coordinating Council For Children With DisAbilities (CCCD) Symposium on Inclusion In Early Childhood Focusing on Childcare, **Dr. Louis Bartoshesky, M.D. - Chair, CCCD**

10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **Panel Discussion** (Moderated by Michael Gamel-McCormick)

This panel session includes parents, service providers, and early interventionists who share their personal stories and experiences with inclusion in early childhood settings. They will discuss common worries and concerns about inclusion from their varying perspectives and engage the audience in their conversation.

Solutions to the questions raised during this panel session will be discussed in the afternoon sessions by experts on best practices in inclusive early childhood settings.

[Michael Gamel-McCormick, Ph.D](#) is Director, Center for Disabilities Studies, and Interim Chair, Department of Individual and Family Studies, University of Delaware. Previously he had been a pre-school teacher for children with and without disabilities, and the director of children's services at a large inner city social service agency serving children with disabilities and children at risk for developmental delay. He has consulted with many organizations and agencies regarding services for children with special needs and has published extensively in that field. He has received numerous teaching awards at the University. [Michelle Arthurs](#), wife to David and mother to Dave, Devin, Kayla and Kennedie, has spent the last 10 years working in the housing field for low-income families. She and her family are on the great adventure with a child with a disability. Michelle is a New Scripts parent and is on the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens. Michelle and David are advocates for inclusion of children with disabilities. [Susan Dagdigian](#) is currently the Associate Director of the Infant/Toddler program at the University of Delaware Early Learning Center. She has over 15 years of experience in issues relating to children with disabilities, including child care management, teaching, and corporate training. She has a Masters Degree in Organization Management and a Bachelors Degree in Child Psychology. She has provided training and consultation to child care providers in various settings. She has had over 5 years experience dealing with issues around inclusion. [Colleen Heckman](#), OTR/L has a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from College Misericordia. Colleen has provided Occupational Therapy services to children Birth to Three in their homes and in their child care settings. Colleen has worked at Easter Seals for the past 8 years where she is an instructor and mentor for child care centers promoting inclusion of children of all abilities. [Julie Johnson](#) has been the administrator and owner of the child care center Tender Loving Kare and TLK Academy for the past 13 years. Prior to that, she had an in-home child care program. She has a Masters Degree in Special Education. She is the parent of 3 children including 1 with special needs. She is active in many organizations dealing with children with special needs. She has experience with inclusion at her child care center. [Nicole Stoessel](#) is a vigorous advocate for her daughter who has multiple disabilities. Nicole has been persistent with her family's health insurance company and has finally assured coverage for equipment that had been prescribed for her daughter but had been denied multiple times. She has frequently called on state representatives to advocate for her daughter. Nicole is a registered nurse and doctor in the field of chiropractic, is a recent graduate of the "Partners in Policymaking" program, and has volunteered with Special Olympics. [Kristin Wilson](#) is the team leader of the Specialized Community Service program at Child Development Watch, the Delaware Early Intervention Program. She has worked in the field of early childhood special education for over 15 years.

1:15 - 2:15 p.m. Best Practices for Inclusive Childcare Settings - Sally Sloop

This session will inform our audience about the best practices derived from evidence-based research in the field of early childhood education as it relates to high quality inclusive childcare for children with disabilities. The information will be shared in a way that is relevant to early interventionists, childcare professionals, and families. Ms. Sloop will participate in the dialogue that is generated during the panel discussion.

[Sally Sloop](#) has taught pre-school through grade 3 and has been an adjunct professor at several universities. Sally has worked as an inclusion specialist for Partnerships for Inclusion, as Family Support Specialist for the North Carolina Partnership for Children, and is currently Program Coordinator for the Family Support Network of North Carolina. She has an undergraduate degree from Wheelock College and graduate degrees from Boston University and Harvard University Graduate School of Education. She and her husband are the parents of two young adults. Their younger child Peter, age 23, has special needs.

2:15 - 3:15 p.m. Making Inclusion Happen - Denise Bouyer

The goal of this session is to provide our eclectic audience with a framework to begin and/or continue their efforts to create high quality inclusive environments for children with disabilities. It is here that our participants are armed with practical, real-life strategies; techniques to break down barriers that are standing in the way; and encouragement to go forth and make inclusion happen.

[Denise Bouyer](#) is Project Director for the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) New Jersey Inclusive Child Care Project. The goals of the project are to increase the number of child care providers who offer inclusive child care; improve quality of early care and education for children with special needs; and improve the delivery of services to children with special needs. Denise represents SPAN on numerous state and regional organizations. She has worked with parents of young children, with early intervention providers and with pre-school education teams in New Jersey and New York. Denise has a Master of Arts in Organizational Development. She is the parent of a 9 year old girl with Down Syndrome.

About the Conference

The Inclusion Conference is designed to address the needs of teachers, administrators, childcare providers, and parents interested in creating an inclusive school system and community for ALL children, Birth to 21.

Conference Detail

PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED—

Registration and payment must be completed by April 19, 2007. Register early, as space is limited. Go to <http://www.dati.org/events/index.php> to register on-line. Only check or credit card payments will be accepted. Make checks payable to the **University of Delaware** (EIN 51-6000297) and forward with your registration form(s) to:

Inclusion Conference
DATI/University of Delaware
c/o A. I. duPont Hospital for Children
P. O. Box 269
Wilmington, DE 19899-0269

Cost: \$25 per person; \$12.50 for full-time students. A limited number of stipends are available for parents and child care providers who need this support in order to participate; call (302) 856-1081 for more information.

Schedule: The conference begins with registration and continental breakfast at **8:00 a.m.** and the workshops conclude at **3:15 p.m.**

Continuing Education Credits: Conference attendees may earn 5.5 professional growth hours with the Department of Education. An application has also been made to the Office of Child Care Licensing Board, and to Delaware's Professional Boards of Regulation for Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Registered Nurses for continuing education credits.

Substitutes: In order for DOE to support substitutes, prior approval is necessary through your district inclusion facilitator.

Questions? Contact DATI at (800) 870-DATI or (302) 651-6790; TDD (302) 651-6794; (302) 856-1081 or email rathel@asel.udel.edu.

Need Directions? Call 302-678-8500 or go to <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/area/map.html?propertyID=893>.

Registration Form for May 3, 2007

For educators who have requested subs ONLY:

- I have prior approval for a substitute supported by DOE
- I will not be using a substitute supported by DOE

Name (one form per person)

Title

Affiliation/School

- Business OR Residence

School District (if applicable)

Address

City State Zip

Daytime Phone Evening Phone

E-mail address

Workshop Selection (check only one)

- 1) Supporting Meaningful Learning
- 2) Creating the Inclusive Climate
- 3) EmPOWER: A strategic approach
- 4) Inclusion for Birth Through Five

I require the following **accessibility accommodation** in order to participate:

- Brailled materials
- Large print materials
- Assistive listening device
- Audiotape materials
- Sign language interpretation
ASL or Tactile (circle one)
- Vegetarian
- Special meal request

Other (specify)

The Inclusion Conference can only guarantee accessibility accommodations if notified of the above by **April 19, 2007**.

Planning Committee/Sponsors

Center for Disabilities Studies at the University of Delaware

461 Wyoming Road
Newark, DE 19716
(302) 831-6974; FAX (302) 831-4690
TDD (302) 831-4689
<http://www.udel.edu/cds/>

Louis E. Bartoszesky, MD, MPH
Genetics

Coordinating Council for Children with DisAbilities

A. I. duPont Hospital for Children
1600 Rockland Road
P. O. Box 269
Wilmington, DE 19899-0269
(302) 651-5476; FAX (302) 651-5033

Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI)

University of Delaware
A. I. duPont Hospital for Children
1600 Rockland Road
P. O. Box 269
Wilmington, DE 19899-0269
800-870-DATI or
(302) 651-6790; FAX (302) 651-6793
<http://www.dati.org>

Delaware Department of Education

John G. Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901-3639
(302) 735-4210; FAX (302) 739-2388
<http://www.doe.k12.de.us>

Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council

Margaret M. O'Neill Building
410 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901
(302) 739-3333; FAX (302) 739-2015
<http://www.state.de.us/ddc/default.shtml>

Delaware Head Start Association

c/o New Directions Early Head Start
321 S. College Avenue
Newark, DE 19716
(302) 831-0478

DHSS/Birth to Three Early Intervention System

DHSS Main Building
1901 N. DuPont Highway
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 255-9134
<http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dms/epqc/birth3/directry.html>

Parent Information Center of Delaware

5570 Kirkwood Highway
Wilmington, DE 19808
(302) 999-7394; (888) 547-4412
FAX (302) 999-7367
<http://www.picofdel.org>

Additional Sponsors

DHSS/Delaware Division of Developmental Services

1056 South Governor's Avenue, Suite 101
Dover, Delaware 19904
(302) 744-9600; FAX (302) 744-9632
<http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/ddds/index.html>

Easter Seal of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore

61 Corporate Circle
New Castle, DE 19720-2405
(302) 324-4444; (302) 324-4441
<http://de.easterseals.com>



"From one parent of a child with a disability to another, I invite you to come and hear Doug Fisher and be empowered to embrace inclusion for your child."— *Samtra Devard*

Now featuring poster presentations!

Online registration available!
<http://www.dati.org/events/index.php>



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