HAPPY SUMMER FROM FDLRS SUNCOAST

We hope you find time this summer to rest and rejuvenate! While the year brought many challenges, there is much to celebrate in the acquisition of new skills, learning, and ideas that may ultimately improve future practice! This edition of the FDLRS Suncoast newsletter targets a few ideas and information that may help as you plan for the start of the 2021-2022 School Year! Please know that the FDLRS Suncoast Associate Center (AC) will continue to work to support you, your colleagues, and your teams in serving Exceptional Student Education programming. The FDLRS AC team is also here to support your parents and families through ongoing technical assistance, services, and learning opportunities related to ESE! As you pull together your plans, please feel free to reach out and include the FDLRS team! Wishing you all well for the future! Enjoy a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
The FDLRS Suncoast AC Team
FREE SPECIALIZED THERAPEUTIC SUMMER SERVICES

S.T.E.P. (Specialized Therapeutic Educational Program) by Pediatric Priorities, LLC is a program initiated 5 years ago to bridge the gaps that teachers and therapists saw in education for Pre-K ESE students who are transitioning to Kindergarten. Originally designed with lessons driven by each student’s IEP goals, the classes included direct specialized instruction, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical, and social skills instruction.

Due to COVID 19, programming has been adjusted to meet the safety guidelines of the times. All services for summer of 2021 will be provided in home.

- S.T.E.P. is ONLY for those students who have not yet used their VPK Voucher.
- S.T.E.P. is different than ESY (Extended School Year). Students may attend both programs if scheduling permits.
- If interested, email chrismpetrick@gmail.com, call (941) 773 5732, or visit facebook.com/stepsummerprogram.

JUNE 24, 2021 @ 9:00AM - 3:00PM

**Join this full-day, virtual course on understanding and supporting early childhood brain development and mental health.** Learn to identify brain differences, their implications and strategies to address them. **Click here for the informational flyer and registration.** Scholarships are available. Contact Johnna.Brynn@thefloridacenter.org.

APRIL WAS CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

The Manatee Child Find Office partnered with Manatee Children’s Services to raise awareness of this important issue.
The Technology and Learning Project (TLC) has partnered with ATIA to bring to you unlimited access to over 150 online courses and webinars free to all Florida educators, related service providers, and AT specialists. ASHA and other CEUs are available! Use this link for more information and to register. Check out this video for information on how to register! We highly recommend signing up for CEUs if you want to use these webinars to earn in-service points.

“"The advent of digital learning, if properly and fully embraced, could result in some major changes within our field — for example, breaking down the barriers of time and place that lock us in schools, enabling us to do another aspect of transformational change that needs to happen: personalization.”

- Professor Paul Reville, The Harvard Gazette

"Seeded Amid the Many Surprises of COVID Time, Some Unexpected Positives"
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

SECTION 504 TIPS FOR TEACHERS

When meeting with parents, we want to build their confidence and trust that we care and want the best for their child.

PHRASES TO AVOID:
- That isn’t my responsibility.
- With all due respect...
- I don’t know what I can do about that.
- We don’t do that here.
- We don’t have that.
- That would cost too much.
- We always do it that way.
- That takes away from other students.
- If we did that for your child, we would have to do it for everyone and that’s just unreasonable.

PHRASES TO USE OFTEN:
- The parent’s name
- Thank you.
- I’ll be happy to...
- That’s an understandable problem.
- I have a lot of experience with that.
- Here’s what we will do.
- Is there anything else you would like to address today?

THE GRADUAL RELEASE MODEL FOR THE MTSS (MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT)

Wondering how to apply gradual release to your MTSS tiers? This handy chart should help!

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UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LITERACY INSTITUTE: "USING THE SCIENCE OF READING TO DESIGN INTERVENTION"

UFLI’s one page resource about designing reading interventions is perfect for your summer planning toolbox. It includes video links, PowerPoint presentations, interactive games, and more. Click here for UFLI’s "Using the Science of Reading to Design Intervention."
**SUMMER RESOURCES FOR KINDERGARTEN READINESS**

**WIDE OPEN SCHOOL**

*Wide Open School:* Distance learning is easier and more effective with Wide Open School’s trusted library of student activities at your fingertips. Daily Plans offer grab-and-go lessons, life skills, and refreshing brain breaks. The Family & Teacher Center has guides for the best ways to support your learners. They balance academic enrichment with social-emotional support so that students have the skills they need to succeed!

*Vroom:* Vroom helps parents boost their child’s learning during the time they already spend together through daily texts with ideas and suggestions for maximizing everyday activities.

*The First 1000 Days:* The First 1000 Days Suncoast offers many resources and activities, as well as in person events for children offered at local libraries. These activities based on the Basics Principles™ are fun, simple, powerful ways to give your child a great start!

**Khan Academy Kids**

*Khan Academy Kids:* Khan Academy Kids is a complete learning experience across multiple subjects that is aligned to the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework for preschool-aged children and Common Core State Standards for kindergarten-aged children. The program is designed to adapt over the years as a child grows.

**WATER SAFETY & DROWNING PREVENTION**

- Most drowning incidents occur in swimming pools; however, young children can drown in less than two inches of water.
- Tragedies in and around the water can be prevented. You can be a lifesaver by helping families understand the importance of practicing water safety rules: supervision, barriers, swimming lessons and emergency preparedness.
- [Click here for the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida Water Safety for resources.](#)
THE MISTAKE FRIENDLY CLASSROOM

"Mistakes are crucial if we are to learn. As Youki Terada has written for Edutopia, 'Mistakes are crucial pieces of information that force a cognitive reckoning, pushing the brain to reconcile contradictory information and build more accurate, durable solutions.' Terada cites a point made by Carol Dweck, author of Mindset: The New Psychology of Success: 'Every time a student makes a mistake… they grow a synapse.' Here are some tips on how to build mistake resilience:

Make "good" mistakes purposefully: Plan for "good" mistakes such as seemingly off-base answers. By thinking ahead about why a student might make a mistake, you’ll be better prepared to help them deconstruct it and arrive at a better conclusion.

Engage with good mistakes as they happen: Rather than dismissing a wrong answer, try asking, “What makes you say that?”

Have students create good mistakes on purpose: Try asking your students to think of three incorrect but good responses to a prompt. They’ll likely come up with logical possibilities, which will help them make connections among ideas and build their critical thinking skills.

Click here to read the full article, "The Mistake-Friendly Classroom" by Megan Laslocky.

BOOKS TO HELP GRIEVING TEENS HEAL

Even as vaccination efforts offer hope for the pandemic’s end, and as more schools reopen, the road to healing may just be starting for many students. Here are 18 books recommended by educators to help along the way. Click here for the list.

WATCH THIS: BRENE BROWN ON EMPATHY

Click here to watch Brene Brown’s video about empathy versus sympathy.
The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is the main law for K-12 public education in the United States. It replaced No Child Left Behind. Most schools might start seeing the impact of ESSA in the 2017-2018 school year. ESSA is a complex law. It affects all students in public schools. That includes the 1 in 5 kids with learning and thinking differences.

The purpose of ESSA
The main purpose of ESSA is to make sure public schools provide a quality education for all kids. ESSA gives states more of a say in how schools account for student achievement. This includes the achievement of disadvantaged students. These students fall into four key groups:
- Students in poverty
- Minorities
- Students who receive special education services
- Those with limited English language skills

Under ESSA, states get to decide the education plans for their schools within a framework provided by the federal government. The law also offers parents a chance to weigh in on these plans. This is important if your child gets special education services. You have the opportunity to make sure your child’s needs are taken into account.

The plan must include a description of the following:
- Academic standards
- Annual testing
- School accountability
- Goals for academic achievement
- Plans for supporting and improving struggling schools
- State and local report cards

There are several more requirements for states and school districts, but these are the ones that most directly affect kids with learning and thinking differences. ESSA also provides funding for literacy programs and other grants that can help students succeed. And it encourages innovation in how schools teach kids.

The role parents can play in ESSA
ESSA requires states to let parents get involved in the accountability process for schools. Their input will help ensure that schools pay attention to kids in special education. ESSA requires states to include parents in the accountability process in two key areas:

State and local plans: Parents can weigh in on how their state and school district deal with goals for achievement, accountability, and struggling students.

State and school district report cards: Parents have a say in the report cards their state and school district must develop to inform the public how schools are doing.

To read the entire article regarding ESSA by Andrew M.I. Lee, JD at understood.org, simply click the following link: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): What you need to know.

Amy Bockerstette makes history by becoming the first golfer with Down syndrome to compete in a college championship.
The BESE Portal to Professional Development Alternatives (PDA) offers a variety of online courses for Florida educators that will increase their ability to respond to the needs of students with disabilities. The courses from the PDA site and the PD Portal site have been combined to create a “one-stop” for professional development related to students with disabilities.

Register for PDA Courses in the Sarasota PD Portal or Manatee MyPGS. Email angelica.rossi@sarasotacountyschools.net with questions.

**RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING LIST FOR EDUCATORS**

- **Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity** - Floyd Cobb & John Krownapple
- **Explicit Instruction** - Anita Archer & Charles Hughes
- **The Coffee Bean** - Jon Gordon & Damon West
- **UDL Now** - Dr. Katie Novak
- **Training from the Back of the Room** - Sharon Bowman
- **Atomic Habits** - James Clear
- **Connecting with Students Online** - Jennifer Serravallo
- **Unstuck: How Curiosity, Peer Coaching, and Teaming Can Change Your School** - Bryan Goodwin, Tonia Gibson, Dale Lewis, & Kris Rouleau
- **Attack of the Teenage Brain! Understanding and Supporting the Weird and Wonderful Adolescent Learner** - John Medina
- **Conscious Discipline Building Resilient Classrooms** - Dr. Becky Bailey
- **Teaching When the World is on Fire** - Lisa Delpit
- **Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times** - Katherine May