

InSights

Ideas & Solutions from the Nebraska Branch of the International Dyslexia Association

June, 2011



2011 Calendar of Events

JUNE AND JULY Summer Classes

June 11 NEIDA Executive Officers' meeting, 9 AM
At Gwelda Carlson's

June 27-July 1 Tutor Training Workshop Lincoln

August 13 NEIDA Board Meeting, 9 AM

September 10 NEIDA Board Meeting, 9 AM

September/October "Trubl Speling" Workshop

October 20 4-7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Book Fair
South Pointe, Lincoln

October Barnes and Noble Book Fair
Oak View Mall, Omaha

Need Tutoring?

The Nebraska Branch of the IDA continuously receives inquiries regarding testing for dyslexia and tutoring. Screening to identify the problem areas may result in more valuable information to treating dyslexia than formal assessments. Screening involves 1) phonological awareness (ability to manipulate sounds), 2) phonics (sound symbol relationships, syllables, word parts—prefixes, roots, suffixes), 3) fluency and accuracy in reading, 4) vocabulary knowledge, and 5) comprehension. Contact the NE IDA for tutors trained in Orton-Gillingham methods.

IF you are trained in Orton-Gillingham methods and are interested in tutoring, please contact Gwelda Carlson, gjcarlson@windstream.net



Celebrate Teachers

If I Could Teach You, Teacher

If I could teach you, teacher,
I'd teach you how much more
you have accomplished
than you think you have.
I'd show you the seeds
you planted years ago
that are now coming into bloom.
I'd reveal to you the young minds
that have expanded under your care,
the hearts that are serving others
because they had you as a role model.
If I could teach you, teacher,
I'd show you the positive effect
you have had on me and my life.
Your homework is
to know your value to the world,
to acknowledge it, to believe it.
Thank you, teacher.

By Joanna Fuchs

*It is easier to build strong children
than to repair broken men. -
Frederick Douglass*

The International Dyslexia Association

Nebraska Branch, P.O. Box 6302, Lincoln NE 68506
402.434.6434



Our Nebraska Branch of the IDA mission is:

- *To improve educational opportunities for students with reading, writing and spelling deficits.
- *To promote education of teachers in research-based approaches to reading instruction.
- *To work with teacher education providers to require research-based training for teacher certification.
- *To provide information and support to parents and the public on reading problems.



Early Childhood

During 2011, the NE IDA is focusing on dyslexia support and education to the medical field, daycare and preschool providers and to parents of preschool children. Visit with your pediatricians, daycare and preschool providers. If your community would like to know more, let us know. Check out the last page of the newsletter, **The Importance of Quality Early Childhood Education.**

"I was, on the whole, considerably discouraged by my school days. It was not pleasant to feel oneself so completely outclassed and left behind at the beginning of the race."

- Winston Churchill



Tutor Training Workshop

June 27-July 1 8:30-4:30
 Cornhusker Bank Community Room
 Apple's Way (East HWY 2) Lincoln

Need an update on what works in teaching students to read? Need to know what's new in reading research? Need to know how diagnostic screening guides teaching lessons? Need to practice multisensory, structured, sequential instruction and lesson planning? The Orton-Gillingham methodology, along with practical application for educators/tutors will provide participants with scientific research-based information and strategies based on the 5 elements of reading. \$200 + \$60 for materials. For registration/ information, contact Sharon O'Neal 402-488-6080 or sharono@inebraska.com. Register by June 25th.



**Helping struggling readers read...
 one child at a time.**

FONDA's vision is to empower children with the skills they need to read and succeed. FONDA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization solely formed to support the activities and initiatives of The Nebraska Branch of The International Dyslexia Association (www.ne-ida.com), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Have a Great Summer!





From the President

Dr. Joan Stoner, President

The Importance of Tracing!

" Why does a paper cut hurt so much?"

Melanie Henry, M.D. and assistant professor in the department of pain management and anesthesia at the University of California, San Francisco. "The skin in that area needs to be very perceptive." The brain devotes at least 10 times as much attention to touch in the hands as it does in the arms or the legs, says Anne Louise Oaklander, M.D., Ph.D, and associate professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School. The fingers themselves contain among the highest densities of nociceptors (nerve fibers that signal surface-level pain).

Our incoming president of the Nebraska Branch of IDA discovered an article titled How Handwriting Trains the Brain. You can find the full reprint in the October 5, 2010 Business section of The Wall Street Journal.

"Using advanced tools such as magnetic resonance imaging, researchers are finding that writing by hand is more than just a way to communicate. The practice helps with learning letters and shapes, can improve idea composition and expression, and may aid fine motor-skill development."

For a copy, you may contact Gwendolyn Bounds at wendy.bounds@wsj.com. For reprints, call 1-800-843-0008 or visit www.djreprints.com.

Meet your Nebraska IDA Board

Joan Stoner, President
Eileen Vautravers, President- elect
Gwelda Carlson, Treasurer
Shellie Cook
Tricia Fuchs
Kate Hatch
Linda Lannin
Molly Moller
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Carolyn Brandle, Past President
Becky Kugler
David Staenberg
Cheryl Reed
Virginia Johnson, ex-officio
Sharon O'Neal, ex-officio

About the Newsletter!

Share your story! Share a book summary! What's going on in your school? Parents, what are your concerns and questions? Send your thoughts about our conferences and workshops! YOU, the members, help to make the newsletter. Send information to Gwelda Carlson gjcarlson@ne-ida.com.

The International Dyslexia Association and the NE Branch support efforts to provide dyslexic individuals with appropriate instruction and to identify these individuals at an early age. The IDA believes that multisensory teaching and learning is the best approach currently available for those affected by dyslexia. The IDA, however, does not endorse any specific program, speaker, or instructional materials, noting there are a number of such that present the critical components of instruction as defined by the Task Force on Multisensory teaching which works under the guidance of IDA's Teacher Education Issues Committee.

The Importance of Quality Early Childhood Education

Quality early childhood education plays an important role in influencing the type of person the child will become, since it deals with the period of life when the base for competence and coping skills is established. Research has demonstrated that the base for competence and coping skills depends on the way the brain develops. The wiring and sculpturing of the brain take place during early childhood, and experiences during this period drives the wiring of the brain and builds its basic capabilities.

There are critical periods when a young child requires appropriate stimulation for the brain to develop neural pathways for optimum development of specific capabilities. By age six the critical periods are over or waning. Children, who do not receive the stimulation necessary for the development of specific capabilities during their critical periods, have great difficulty overcoming deficits later on. Although it is possible to develop the brain's capacity to compensate and overcome some deficits, full potential will not be achieved.

Quality early childhood education programs can provide essential experiences for brain development and consequently have a direct effect on cognitive abilities. These experiences can have an enduring effect on intellectual and scholastic abilities and influence future learning capacity. Good early childhood education programs can also help children to develop social skills by providing a stimulating positive interaction with the environment, adults, and other children. Although individual children develop at their own pace, all children progress through a sequence of physical, cognitive and emotional growth and change. As children develop, they need different types of stimulation to exercise their evolving skills and to develop new ones. By the time they enter school, children who attend high quality programs out-perform children in lower quality programs on measures of learning and development. Quality early childhood education programs give children access to the opportunities that promote school readiness and ensure that the school experience will be successful.

The primary goal of a first rate early childhood program is to help each child reach full potential in all areas of life, develop self-esteem, and provide the experiences from which knowledge is constructed. A quality program is important because it allows children to create themselves through purposeful activity during the most important years for learning. Children will not be able to achieve their full potential once this critical period for learning is over.

