

**Commission on Services
for Children with Special Needs
Presents**



**25th Annual Conference
On Children with Special Needs
Birth to Five**

**Key Note Speaker:
George Freeman**

*University of North Florida
University Center
12000 Alumni Drive
Jacksonville FL 32224*

Friday, April 17, 2009

The Julia M. Wickersham Lecture Series

SPECIAL NEEDS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

APRIL 17, 2009

Continental Breakfast and Registration: 7:45 – 8:30 A.M.

Plenary Session: 8:30 – 10:00 A.M. – George Freeman

Session 1

10:20 – 11:20 A.M.

- 1-A Marian Birdsall..... Strategies for Effective Communication with Young Children
- 1-B Elise Bowers..... Teaching Social Skills to Pre-Schoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- 1-C Krista Drummond & Julie Breedlove..... Helping Your Child Become a Writer
- 1-D Tom Nurse..... So, Who's Going to Pay for all the Care A Family Provides into the Future?
- 1-E Catherine Swanson..... Introduction to Feeding Problems in Early Childhood, To Feed or Not to Feed...That is the Question.
- 1-F Angie Hilken..... Relationships – Essential Building Blocks for Learning and Self-Control

Lunch

11:40 – 1:00 PM

Session 2

1:20 – 2:20 PM

- 2-A Christy Duke When to Refer for Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapies; a Developmental Milestones Guide for Parents and Educators
- 2-B Kathleen Mankinen..... The Importance of Theory of Mind/Social Cognition in Infants' and Toddlers' Development
- 2-C Marlana Fuller..... The Utility of Embedding Discrete – Trial Instruction into Everyday Activities of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
- 2-D Erin Callahan & Melinda Spinney..... Creating and Using a Multi-Sensory Toolkit for Your Pre-K Classroom
- 2-E Tom & Shelby Nurse The Journey So Far, Ask Your Questions and Get More Details
- 2-F Theresa Rulien & Joe Mella..... Saving Your Sanity – Dealing with Emotional and Behavioral Outbursts in Young Children

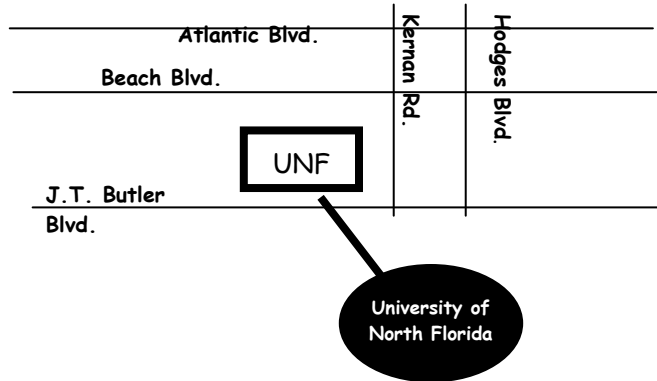
Session 3

2:30 – 3:30 PM

- 3-A Jill Fane..... IEP Jeopardy
- 3-B George Freeman Motivating Children to Take the Next Step Up – Feedback and Reinforcement
- 3-C Susan Mankowski Interactive Read-Alouds with Young Children
- 3-D Karon Ivey Reaching Children through Play Therapy

LOCATION FOR ALL ACTIVITIES:

University Center
University of North Florida
12000 Alumni Drive
Jacksonville FL 32224



CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION: 7:45 – 8:30 A.M.
PLENARY SESSION 8:30 – 10:00 A.M.

George Freeman

The Game of Independence: Play So the Child Will Win

George Freeman received his Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in psychology from the University of North Florida. He has worked as a Behavior Specialist in the St. Johns County School District from 2004 to the present. He has been a Florida Certified Behavior Analyst since 1993, Certified Instructor for the "Redirecting Children's Behavior" course since 1999, and Certified Instructor for Professional Crisis Management since 2007. Mr. Freeman is a popular conference speaker on topics related to behavior issues. He is married and has two teenagers, which he has described as "my favorite accomplishment of all."

In his keynote presentation, Mr. Freeman asks you to imagine your child at 25 years old – who is that child, and what does that child's life look like? Whether you are a parent/teacher or a service provider, you already serve as a coach in the game of independence. The audience will explore the pitfalls that commonly lead to children who are dependent and isolated as adults. This will be contrasted with strategies that promote independence and socialization. "Playing so the child will win" means reviewing and revising your plays on a regular basis and keeping your eye on the goal.

Friday, April 17, 2009

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

10:20 – 11:20 A.M.

1 – A *STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH YOUNG CHILDREN*

Marian Birdsall, M.Ed., MAT, CCC-SLP
Assistive Technology Specialist
Duval County Public Schools

Karen Covey, M.Ed.
Assistive Technology Specialist
Duval County Public Schools

Participants will be provided an overview of the characteristics of young communicators and the stages of development, goals and objectives appropriate for each of the stages and suggested activities to help the children acquire skills necessary for progressing to the next communication stage.

1 - B *TEACHING SOCIAL SKILLS TO PRE-SCHOOLERS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS*

Elise Bowers, M.A.
Educational Coordinator
Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

This presentation will give an overview of Social Skills programming being offered through UF-Jacksonville CARD. Participants will learn how to promote pro-social skills for children who are at a pre-verbal or emergent-language stage of communication. Setting appropriate goals, strategies for engaging attention, promoting communication, developing joint attention and other social skills will be covered. Video footage of Social Skills training sessions will be shown to highlight activities and techniques.

1 – C *HELPING YOUR CHILD BECOME A WRITER*

Julie Breedlove
Early Literacy Teacher
Nemours BrightStart!

Krista Drummond
Early Literacy Teacher
Nemours BrightStart!

Research shows that reading and writing develop at the same time in young children. Good readers grow up to be good writers; good writers grow up to be good readers. Learning to write is a developmental process involving distinct stages and parents and teachers play a pivotal role in helping a child develop emergent writing skills. In this presentation, participants will be provided with information about the development of writing skills and learn simple and fun ways to support writing.

1 – D *SO, WHO'S GOING TO PAY FOR ALL THE CARE A FAMILY PROVIDES INTO THE FUTURE?*

Tom Nurse
Personal Financial Advisor
Manning and Nurse

One of the greatest long term concerns families caring for a loved one with special needs have is how the care will work into the future. Specifically, an AARP published study entitled "Valuing the Invaluable" found that the economic value of uncompensated family care is considered the largest source of covering the long-term care of someone with special needs. However, with life expectancy for special needs populations continuing to lengthen, planning for care beyond the parent's life is becoming more critical. Join Tom Nurse, a nationally recognized expert in special needs financial planning, as he explains the importance of family special needs planning for life's transitions, the coordination of public and private funded care, as well as the purpose and function of a special needs trust and some financial strategies that can help both now and into the future. This workshop can help both families and professionals make some sense of the maze of programs, eligibility requirements, health care access and quality of life concerns that can seem so overwhelming.

1 - E *INTRODUCTION TO FEEDING PROBLEMS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD; TO FEED OR NOT TO FEED...THAT IS THE QUESTION.*

Catherine Swanson, CCC-SLP/CCC-A
Coordinator of Communication Sciences
Nemours Children's Clinic

The population of children with feeding difficulties is increasing and is becoming much more complicated. With a team approach, the hope is that these issues can be addressed through medical, therapeutic, nutritional, and behavioral intervention. Our goal is to foster optimal growth in oral motor, social, communication, and developmental feeding behaviors as well as meet their nutritional needs.

Angie Hilken, LCSW
Therapist
All Saints Learning Center

Young children learn to manage strong emotions through adult support and modeling. Supportive, caring relationships are crucial for the young child's emotional development. The ability to self-regulate emotions is essential to the development of social skills and learning readiness.

LUNCHEON 11:40 – 1:00 p.m.

The Susan Jaskevich Award will be presented. This award recognizes a professional who displays outstanding commitment to and advocacy for children with special needs and their families. It is presented annually in memory of Susan Jaskevich who was a tireless advocate for families and an inspiration to those who worked with her.

Special Lunchtime Presentation by Tom and Shelby Nurse

“The Journey So Far...Reflections from the NICU to College”

Entertainment provided by:

*Talking Hands
Allen D. Nease High School
Directed by Lisa Layton*

Drawing for Amelia Island Plantation Get Away.....3:35 P.M.

There will be a drawing for a door prize to celebrate the completion of the conference. You must be present to win.

Weekend get away to Amelia Island Plantation

2 - A *WHEN TO REFER FOR SPEECH, OCCUPATIONAL AND PHYSICAL THERAPIES – A DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS*

**Christy Duke, Joanne Walter, Jamie Williams, Penny Harkey, & Nancy Lotowycz
Therapists
Coastal Therapy and Learning Center**

During this presentation, the audience will learn important developmental milestones as they relate to speech, occupational and physical therapies. Linguistic, fine motor and gross motor skills will be discussed. The audience will be provided with literature concerning developmental milestones in young children from birth to age five.

2 - B *THE IMPORTANCE OF THEORY OF MIND/SOCIAL COGNITION IN INFANTS' AND TODDLERS' DEVELOPMENT*

**Kathleen Mankinen, M.Ed.
Coordinator, Parent Infant Program, Vision
The Florida School for the Deaf and Blind**

This session will explore the research of Tomasello and Haberl (2003) and others into the ability of infants and toddlers to know the inner lives of others. The importance of the development of this skill, ways to facilitate development, and adaptations for young children with special needs will be explored.

2 – C *THE UTILITY OF EMBEDDING DISCRETE-TRIAL INSTRUCTION INTO EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES*

**Marlena Fuller, B.A., BCABA
Educational Coordinator
Center for Autism and Related Disabilities**

During this presentation, the concept of embedded instruction will be discussed and several techniques that utilize this concept will be reviewed (e.g. natural environment training, milieu instruction, and incidental teaching). The audience will view video clips of how embedded instruction was effectively used to teach language skills to preschoolers with developmental disabilities. Methods for training education professionals and caretakers to incorporate embedded instruction will also be covered. Lastly, implications for future research in this area and challenges that behavior analysts face in promoting the adoption of best instructional practices will be discussed.

2 - D *CREATING AND USING A MULTISENSORY TOOLKIT FOR YOUR PRE-K CLASSROOM*

Erin Callahan Early Literacy Teacher Nemours BrightStart!	Melinda Spinney Early Literacy Teacher Nemours BrightStart!
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In this session, teachers and parents of Pre-K children will be shown a variety of multi-sensory teaching strategies for teaching young children phonemic awareness. Demonstrations on how to create an easy to use "Multi-sensory Toolkit" from inexpensive materials will be included.

2 - E *THE JOURNEY SO FAR...ASK YOUR QUESTIONS AND GET MORE DETAILS*

Tom Nurse Personal Financial Advisor Manning and Nurse	Shelby Nurse Special Needs Disability Advocate/Educator Manning and Nurse
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As a follow-up to today's lunch keynote, Shelby Nurse and her dad, Tom Nurse, will answer audience questions regarding the strategies, resources and ideas used to help Shelby have such a successful outcome. They will also talk about the next steps of preparing for college, the transition from in IEP to an IPE and where she's going next. So many times folks will say how "lucky" Shelby is and although we are grateful for her positive outcomes, we also live by the old saying: "The Harder You Work, The Luckier You Get". Come ask questions, gain some insight and get inspired!

2 - F *SAVING YOUR SANITY – DEALING WITH EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL OUTBURSTS IN YOUNG CHILDREN*

**Theresa T. Rulien, Ph.D.
Program Director Rapid Response Team
Child Guidance Center, Inc.**

**Joe Mella, LCSW
Rapid Response Assessor
Child Guidance Center, Inc.**

This presentation will focus on the emotional crises of the very young population; recognition of the symptoms of severe stress, triggering events, emotional outcomes. De-escalation techniques for emotional crises and behavioral outbursts will be examined. Appropriate follow-up and ongoing treatment to minimize the re-occurrence of out of control behavior will be explored.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

2:30 – 3:30 P.M.

3 – A *IEP JEOPARDY*

**Jill Fane, B.A.
Northeast Florida Parent Trainer
Central Florida Parent Center**

Enjoy yourself and learn in this fun and interactive presentation in which your host takes you through the fast-paced game of IEP Jeopardy. Categories include: "So What's the Big IDEA?"; "Evaluation and Eligibility"; "The IEP Meeting, Paperwork, Goals, and Finding Solutions".

3 – B *MOTIVATING CHILDREN TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP UP – FEEDBACK AND REINFORCEMENT*

**George Freeman, M.A.
Behavior Specialist
St. Johns County School District**

It may seem difficult teaching children the steps that lead to larger and more meaningful tasks. How do I keep them motivated along the way? For that matter, how do I keep myself motivated? This session will focus on the basic rules for using feedback and reinforcement. Knowing the rules makes for a much smoother ride.

3-C *INTERACTIVE READ-ALOUDS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN*

**Susan Mankowski
Early Childhood Specialist
Jacksonville Public Library**

Using music, texture, and the concrete concepts, we will discuss how to make read-alouds interactive and fun for everyone.

3-D *REACHING CHILDREN THROUGH PLAY THERAPY*

**Karon Ivey, LMHC
Program Director, Full Service Schools
Child Guidance Center, Inc.**

This presentation will illustrate the healing power of play with children that have been traumatized. Participants will get an overview of why play therapy is effective, how it is effective, and what caregivers and other stakeholders in the child's life can do to facilitate the healing process. Case examples will be discussed to illustrate the therapeutic process.

Wolfson Children's Rehabilitation Services has been approved by the Florida Boards of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Occupational Therapy Practice to provide CEU hours.

This conference offers up to 4.5 contact hours for SLP's and OT's. Application for approval of continuing Florida Physical Therapy Association, (FPTA), education for 4.5 contact hours for this conference is pending. Accreditation of this course does not necessarily imply that FPTA supports the views of the presenter or the sponsor. Anyone receiving hours must provide a state license number, sign in/out of the conference, and turn in a CEU Participant Form to receive CEU and a certificate.

Questions? Contact Terri McDearman at Wolfson Children's Rehabilitation Services at 346-0394.

SPECIAL THANKS TO NEMOURS AND WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOR MAJOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EXHIBITORS AND SUPPORTERS

Brooks Rehabilitation
Nova Southeastern University
Wolfson Children's Rehabilitation

We would like to acknowledge the following business for contributing our door prize:

Amelia Island Plantation

Many thanks to the CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE, whose job is to plan, develop, organize, coordinate, and conduct the conference:

Chair: Laura Bailet, PhD, Nemours BrightStart! Dyslexia Initiative

Leslie Allen	Child Guidance Center
Mae Barker	CARD-UF
Elise Bowers	CARD-UF
Karen Campbell	Duval County Public Schools
Karen Cariveau	Duval County Public Schools
Elaine Culvyhouse	Hope Haven Children's Clinic & Family Center
Judy Glendenning	FDLRS, Parent Services
Terri McDearman	Wolfson Rehabilitation Services
Jacquelyn Pass	Nemours Children's Clinic
Jesse Perry	Hope Haven Children's Clinic

REGISTRATION

Special Needs Conference
Friday, April 17, 2009
University of North Florida - University Center
12000 Alumni Drive
Jacksonville FL 32224

Registration is \$45.00 for forms received or postmarked prior to Monday, April 6th (\$50 after that date). This includes conference, continental breakfast and lunch. Please complete the reservation section below. Indicate the letter of breakout sessions you prefer. Assignments will be made on a "first come first served" basis. In the past, attendance has fallen off in the late afternoon. To help us plan, please only sign up for sessions you expect to attend.

NOTE: We will attempt to accommodate attendees' first request for sessions. Seating may be limited for certain sessions. Occasionally unforeseen circumstances may force the cancellation of an individual session.

ROOMS ARE OFTEN CHILLY —————> PLEASE BRING A SWEATER!!

*Indicate you preferred session here		1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
Session 1	10:20 - 11:20			
Session 2	1:20 - 2:20			
Session 3	2:30 - 3:30			

Reservations will not be accepted without check or Purchase Order Number.

Please enclose registration fee of \$45 each with this form (\$50 after April 6, 2009).

Make checks payable to: Nemours

Name: _____

School/Agency: _____

Agency or School will be sending payment Purchase Order Number _____

Home Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Agencies sending checks, please attach name of each attendee

Reservations must be received by April 6, 2009. Send to:

Staci Magruder
Nemours BrightStart! Dyslexia Initiative
841 Prudential Drive
Suite 1600
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Phone: (904) 858-3159

Refund requests must be received by April 6, 2009