Counseling on Counseling

IEF meetings can be tough on us SLRs, but can you think of a better way to handle that tension? Some strategies you can consider: How can we maximize effectiveness while building a positive working relationship with parents? On Friday, do you talk to the client? How do you talk to a new client? Do you speak your own language when talking about comprehension of information? Parents have more experience and time with their child than you have with the client. They are experts on their child. They use the day-to-day data and daily progress, values their input, even if the presentation and vocabulary is not "school-like."

Address Both Parents to be careful to address both parents, not just the "taker." If possible, encourage parents to bring their spouse along since there are too few of us. Use Visual Aids Use visual aids (such as bar graphs, pie charts, etc.) as much as possible. Don't Overwhelm With Information Take care not to give too much information. Parents who are being hit with quite a bit of information will almost certainly be more overwhelmed. Provide handouts that parents can take home to review. Participants are working on the assumption that they need to come back to the information. Start with a summary of the child's strengths and weaknesses, and let the parent draw conclusions about their child's place in the spectrum. Parents need the "big picture," but the details can wait until they can go home and digest the report. Invite them to call with questions after the IEP.

Wait for Questions After each chunk of information, ask "Are you Fragen?" Stop and wait for a response. If the parent replies that they have permission to clarify information and share their ideas, they will. Considering asking this question when they seem to know it. (TIP: Ask the same question when no one has asked a question, it’s a good indication that the information is widely known.)

Join the Team Parent Members/Parents are Willing to Adjust Goals Listen carefully during the presentations of others for areas that are causing practical problems. Be prepared to restate a goal already expressed to avoid repetition in your goal description. You need the parent's input and their plan of action. Parents need the "big picture," but the details can wait until they can go home and digest the report. Invite them to call with questions after the IEP.

Provide Resources Consider providing resources to the parents on how to change their language patterns and tips on how to help your child benefit from a haystack of strategies to improve comprehension? Obviously, handle delicately.

HELP! I need CDE! Many of us are faced with a limited budget for Continuing Education units this year and are considering online courses. What are your options? Here are some ideas:

http://www.speechtherapy.com/ All for an annual subscription, which provides access to the full range of courses.

http://www.speechpro.com/ Free pre-approved CEB courses on such topics as ASL and phonology (must be applied by the end of the month the course expires). Students must have a valid ID number and email address.

http://www.vateach.com/ $19 - $95 for pre-recorded online courses.

http://www.onlinelms.com/ $30 - $150 for courses lasting two to eight hours. Pre-recorded.

Orange County Department of Education: A Hidden Treasure for Technology Purchases and Training!

Have you heard about the OCDE's Technology Department's offerings? Along with instruction in the basics (PowerPoint, Office, etc.) they also offer a number of classes on using available technology such as Smart Boards and document cameras. Several of our clinics are taking a course next week on using an iPad in education. Attendance alone will cover the $30 class as you receive a CPE certificate for this class. The course is available at the Costa Mesa location, or through webinar. In these classes of demanding actors and directors will learn the basics of using an iPad for educational purposes, a new experience and an exciting one at that! If you are interested or would like to find out more, go to the OCDE website at http://register.ocde.net. Also check out the OCDE's new page on a well-being and wellness website.

Matchmaker, Matchmaker!

Board Southeastern States inc. matches high quality speech pathologists and speech assistants on a contract basis to schools who have a part-time or full-time need. Are you interested in learning more about all the time of publication, we have an exciting new program called "On-Demand Online Courses," as well as a part time position for the $91 and the $5050.

What's the best place to grow flowers in school? In kindergarten.

Why do elephants have wrinkles? They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin. They have wrinkles because it is their skin.