

BEHAVIORAL NOTES

ILLINOIS COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS

SCHOOL LIFE BOOKS

Kathy Berry
2011 Mini Grant Winner

Life Books are often used with children who have been adopted or placed in foster care. These books use words, graphics, photos, artwork, and memorabilia in addition to information about the child's life story. Some of the benefits of these books are that they provide a concrete tool for meaningful conversation, ways to normalize the child's experience, opportunities to create a positive identity and space for future events. Children from intact families often have a "baby" book or photo albums to remember their life story, while children who have been adopted or in foster care often do not.

In a school setting yearbooks are often completed and given to students to help them remember their school years. It is common practice for students to ask others to sign their yearbooks as well to have a record of their friendships during those years as well.

Hammitt Junior-Senior High School is a non-public therapeutic day school for students with an emotional/behavioral disability who have been unsuccessful in the public school setting. Students often attend HJSHS for several years before re-entering public school or graduating. In the past upon their departure students have been given a memory book as a gift. The book contained various pictures of the student as well as written words of encouragement from students and staff. Parents have reported that the books were appreciated and reviewed by students.

My mini-grant project was an integration of all of these ideas: the life book, "baby" book/photo album, yearbook, and memory book into one school life book. The book could be started when students enter HJSHS and be given to them when they leave. It could contain information about their past (family history, who they were before arriving here), their present (photos, written memories of their time at HJSHS), and their plans for their future (goals to go to college, employment ideas, etc). The book could also serve as a way for students to record their "growth" both academically and behaviorally. Useful coping strategies could be recorded for later reference and potential local community resource lists could be included as well.

(continued *School Life Books* on page 2)

KEY ISSUES IN EBD

2012 WINTER DRIVE IN
LISLE, IL FEB. 3-4
Beverley Johns

Do you want to get the latest news about best practices in working with students with emotional/behavioral disorders? Do you want to network with other individuals within the profession? Do you want to see exhibits with materials for working with students with behavioral problems? If so, you won't want to miss the annual Drive In Conference of ILCCBD on Feb. 3-4, 2012, at the Wyndham Lisle Hotel. Featured luncheon speaker will be the President of the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders, Diana Rogers-Adkinson. Diana will be speaking on: "Teaching in Troubled Times."

Sessions will include topics such as technology, legal issues, signs of mental illness, working with students who are aggressive, and much more. Friday night you can participate in a make it and take it or a special workshop on strategies for teaching self-management.

Register today if you have not already registered. You won't want to miss the fun. For the complete program visit the website: www.ilccbd.org and click on the ILCCBD wiki at the top to see the program. The hotel registration deadline is January 20. Reserve a room by calling the Wyndham Lisle at: 1-866-615-4206.

An exciting weekend is planned for you. Come and bring a friend and have a great time as you network with others in our profession.



WELCOME MESSAGE

Michael Edwards
President ILCCBD

Let me begin by introducing myself. My name is Michael Edwards and I live and teach in Springfield, IL. I began my career teaching middle school ED and am currently teaching elementary ED, grades 3-5. People often ask why I would want to teach this population of students and deal with difficult behaviors on a daily basis. Honestly, I couldn't imagine NOT working with these special students! Even though it is extremely stressful at times, it's so rewarding. In my case, and as with most of you, these students do not have positive role models in their life and they need us to help them distinguish right from wrong.

I hope to see everyone at the 2012 Winter Drive-in Conference in Lisle, Illinois. This conference provides many opportunities to learn effective practices and provides an excellent opportunity to collaborate with other professionals in the E/BD field. Even if you decide to join us at the last minute, walk-in registration is available on both Friday evening and Saturday morning.

On behalf of the ILCCBD board, we would like to wish you a Happy New Year! Thank you for everything you do to serve the children. Please, be their voice and stay active in organizations such as this. If you are not officially a member of the ILCCBD subdivision, we would love to have you join us! For more information, please contact me at mike.edwards2109@gmail.com.

The 2011 ILCCBD Mini Grant winners; Kathy Berry, Emily Kath, Sarah Reusnow, and Adele Wheeler; will be sharing their award winning projects during Table Talk at the 2012 Winter Drive-In Friday evening, February 3rd. The 2012 winners will be announced at the conference luncheon on Saturday.



ILCCBD Board President Michael Edwards provides special education in a third through fifth grade classroom in Springfield.

SCHOOL LIFE BOOKS

(continued from School Life Books from p.1)

My School Life Book project was piloted with 8th grade students at HJSHS who met twice per month in a group setting. The ILCCBD Mini Grant purchased all the needed supplies: scrapbooks, scrapbook paper, stickers, adhesives, photo finishing, and a gift card at Hobby Lobby for future supply needs. The books were not "finished" as they are meant to be added to throughout students' high school experiences. However most students did make a great deal of progress on their books and actively participated during group sessions. Two students moved unexpectedly during the project and asked to take their books with them.

If others are interested in replicating this project I would recommend starting it prior to 8th grade, perhaps when a student first begins special education. I would also recommend individual sessions to work on the book as some of the information that is shared is quite personal. If this is not possible, group sessions should be longer than the 30 minutes because it takes time for students to get their creativity started.

ASK BEV

Readers are invited to contribute to the *Ask Bev* column by sending questions about the instruction of students with EBD, behavior management, professional ethics, legal issues, and policies and procedures. Questions that might be of interest to others will be shared in this column along with a response prepared by Beverley Johns and the Behavioral Notes Editorial Board. Please email your questions to the editor at ehardman@depaul.edu.

Beverley Johns has agreed to write the *Ask Bev* column. She brings a depth of knowledge in the practice of special education and the evolution of the field. She has 35 years of experience working with students with learning disabilities and emotional/behavioral disorders within the Illinois public schools and is now a learning and behavior consultant and an adjunct instructor for MacMurray College. She was the founding President of Illinois CCBD, a past president of CCBD division of CEC, and is the lead author of eleven books and coauthor of four. Her two most recent books are *401 Adaptations for Every Classroom* and the 12th edition of the classic textbook, *Learning Disabilities and other Related Mild Disabilities* co-authored with Janet Lerner. She currently serves as the Chair of ILCCBD's Governmental Relations Committee and will conduct a Table Talk session on the *Latest on Teacher Licensure* at the 2012 Winter Drive In.

ILCCBD Board of Directors

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ILCCBD SUMMER INSTITUTE

Mark your calendars now for the 2nd Annual ILCCBD Summer Institute to be held at the Alumni Center, Illinois State University in Normal, IL June 8th, 2012. Dr. Brenda Scheuermann from Texas State University will be the featured speaker and her topic will be the *Top 10 Instruction and Behavior Practices That All Teachers Should Use*. In her presentation, teachers will have an opportunity to "Plan classroom and individual behavior management systems with the goal of creating a meaningful, active instructional environment where rules and expectations are clear, where more attention is given to desired behavior than to inappropriate behavior, and where inappropriate behavior is dealt with systematically, consistently, and equitably." CPDUs will be available and additional details about the Institute will be released as they are finalized. For more information, please contact the Conference Chairperson, Paula Crowley at epcrowl@ilstu.edu.

