

Exceptional Programs for Exceptional Learners Monthly Newsletter

Teacher goal for this month:

Search for Best Practice in your field

BEST PRACTICE

Susan Etter, Community Elementary Functional Resource Teacher in Coffeyville, completed all of her students Alternate Assessment Portfolios for this year and got them rated before Spring Break! This took a lot of preparation, extended days at “the office”, support from other teachers and a lot of help from her paraprofessional staff—oh...and let’s not forget all the hard work the students did. Way to go for getting this big job done!

Infinitec

Tri-County and its supporting districts are very fortunate to have the resource of Infinitec. Infinitec is a website free to all teachers within our 7 districts and offers many valuable tools for the teachers and paraprofessionals working hard for students with disabilities.

How do I log on?

You can access Infinitec through Tri-County’s link on their webpage or you can go directly to it at www.myinfinitec.org

Log on directions can be found at <http://www.tricounty607.com/documents/InfinitecAccountCreation.pdf>

Your email address will be your username. *Note: Access to the site is based on

your school districts’ email address. Please email mhogan@tricounty607.com if you are not using a district email address and would like to have access.

What does Infinitec have to offer?

- Trainings
- Resources (ex: social stories for students with autism)
- Online Classroom
- Much, much more!

How can I use these resources?

Infinitec has numerous online videos covering a vast number of disabilities. These videos are perfect for new and continuing paraprofes-

sional training, explanations and information for general education teachers and extended information for special education teachers. Once completed, paras can take a test and receive results which can be printed out for required hours. Just go to **Online classroom** on the left hand side of the page to view the numerous options.

More information will come in following newsletters on other great resources Infinitec has to offer.



Language — Who supports this skill?

Children come to us as early as three years old and many times our first record of these children receiving services is through the Speech/Language program. As educators, we know where language development begins—at home when parents talk and read to their children. As these children continue on through preschool, children begin to have other models as well, one of the most important being the teacher.

As the child progresses through school, the homeroom teacher continues to be one of the most important models of

language—through reading, oral communication, body language, and facial expressions.

When there is a language concern students are usually referred to the Speech Language Pathologist for more services. If the student qualifies for the services the general practice is to schedule a few days a week for a few minutes to work on this skill. Is this appropriate? Sometimes it is but often there are other avenues that can be tried within the general education or special education classroom so that the student does not have to be pulled from

class.

Direct instruction in language may be just as appropriate coming from the special education teacher as it is from the Speech Language Pathologist if the teacher knows to target this area, especially if the student is receiving support from the special education teacher.

During the 2008-2009 school year, our Speech Language Pathologists will be offering trainings to teachers in the area of Language. This is a wonderful opportunity for teacher growth.