

# Exceptional Programs for Exceptional Learners Monthly Newsletter

## Early Childhood Site Changes

Teacher goal for this month:

Be excited about teaching

Federal and State initiatives have been putting early childhood education at the forefront.

This school year we were very lucky to offer more setting options for our early childhood students in Independence and Coffeyville. Independence added a morning ECD preschool with model students at Independence Day Care Center. Coffeyville added an afternoon ECD preschool with model students at Whittier.

On February 2, 2009 our Independence Preschool transferred to a new site. Karen Sprouse and her "Little Friends" now reside on M-Th mornings at Four County North in a wonder-

fully large and furnished preschool room.

Next year, the Whittier building will change to be considered an Early Childhood Center in Coffeyville. There will be some remodeling on some rooms to include 3 At-Risk and Regular Preschool classrooms. We will continue to have our Preschool classroom but hopefully this will allow us to have more inclusive opportunities.

Not only will the Whittier building have the 3 additional preschool rooms, plus the Tri-County preschool, but Head Start will be opened up to be included as part of this center. All of these resources, plus the Parents As Teachers groups

will provide many resources to this community and to many 3-5 year old children.



### Best Practice

What a team...Jaci Hafner, OT, and Melinda Talbott, OTA, have teamed up this year to take on a big challenge—providing the OT services to Cherryvale, Independence, Coffeyville and Caney. This is a big job—lots of traveling, lots of IEPs, lots of screenings and evaluations, and lots and lots of meetings. But what is even more commendable about these two is that you wouldn't know they were this busy. Both always have a smile on their face and put their best foot forward for their students. Thanks for smiling!

### TACT Resources

TACT (Team Assistance for classroom Teachers) is a group of Tri-County professionals that are highly trained to help design and implement programs for students with very challenging issues, such as Autism/Aspergers, M.R., and B.D. Often these students require highly structured and organized programs implement-

ing several disciplines at one time.

Regular education staff and/or special education staff can utilize TACT. Besides student assessment and design support, the TACT team offers inservice trainings, use of materials from the lending library and consultation.

If you would like to utilize TACT resources, see the website at: <http://www.tricounty607.com/tact.htm>

for more information and contact information.