

Exceptional Programs for Exceptional Learners Monthly Newsletter

Love is in the air.



Boys and Girls as Learners

Teacher goal for this month:

Be excited about teaching

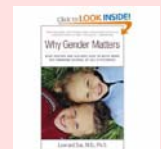
Best Practice

Cindy Couchman, from Buhler High School, was honored as 2009 Kansas Teacher of the Year and is an example of committing to Best Practice. "Cindy is a master teacher; she focuses on student learning. She inspires her students; failure is not an option in her classroom."
"Cindy feels that before you can teach a child, you must demonstrate that you care. (She has an) incredible energy level that provides opportunities for 'as long as it takes' for the student to experience success."

Here's a review on a very interesting book I recently read... The book has some shock value!
From Scientific American, Aimee Cunningham on the book *Why Gender Matters: What Parents and Teachers Need to Know about the Emerging Science of Sex Differences* by Leonard Sax:
Sax—a pediatrician and psychologist in the Washington, D.C., area and founder of the National Association for Single-Sex Public Education—hopes to make today's teachers and parents aware of the science behind differences between girls and boys. He was inspired to write the book as more and more parents brought their young sons to his office in the mid-1990s, seeking an evaluation for attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. Recalling studies that show boys do not hear as well as girls, Sax

felt that for some of the boys he assessed, simply not hearing the teacher led to their inattention, a problem that could be solved by a front-row seat. Although Sax repeatedly makes clear these differences do not limit what either sex can achieve, he does contend they play a valuable role in determining the most effective methods for teaching, disciplining and understanding children and young adults. Using studies as well as anecdotes from his practice and visits to classrooms, he offers advice on such topics as preventing drug abuse and motivating students. In his chapter on aggression, Sax cites research that shows young male primates are much more likely to engage in rough-and-tumble play than females to illustrate why some amount of aggression

in boys is normal and why banning "healthy" outlets such as dodge ball—done in his local school district—is misguided. The book is thought-provoking, and Sax explains well the science behind his assertions. His anecdotes are generally instructive, although some are a little too thin to support his points. Sax ends by offering several compelling arguments in support of same-sex education, such as analyses that find girls are more likely to study physics and boys are more likely to study literature in single-sex schools. But whether or not you agree with Sax, his volume is a worthy read for those who care about how best to prepare children for the challenges they face on the path to adulthood.



Spectra Medicaid Form

Changes, changes, changes...it seems like every year teachers are asked to do a familiar piece of paperwork just a little bit different.

Important Reminder:
There is a Medicaid

Spectra form that prints off after each printed IEP. Please have this signed at least annually, even if the student doesn't receive any related services.

Teachers and providers should also make sure that a Doctor and Doc-

tor's phone number (or at least address) are listed on this sheet as well.

Completed forms, help save time in the long run and allow us to collect reimbursement on some students.