

# ds schoolpress

## WE HAVE A NEW LOOK !

Since 2005, the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati has been publishing a newsletter for teachers called ***Strategies For Success***. We have now changed the format and title of our newsletter but maintained the same helpful, excellent information for all educators of children with Down syndrome and other disabilities. We need your input. What is it that you would like to see in our newsletter? How can we help you support your students with Down syndrome in your classroom? We want you to have a great year. Please share this with other educators and parents in your school. If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive future publications please send us an email at [sally@dsagc.com](mailto:sally@dsagc.com). Don't forget to visit our website at [www.dsagc.com](http://www.dsagc.com) and click on the Educator tab for more resources.



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Hirschsprung's disease more common in children with DS.
- 3 common misunderstandings on inclusive schooling.
- Teacher needs help with bus issues.
- New book in Lending Library
- Buddy Walk is Saturday, 10/10/09!



## HIRSCHSPRUNG'S DISEASE

Nationally, 10 to 12% of babies with Down syndrome have some type of intestinal defect which requires surgery, such as Hirschsprung's disease. This is a birth defect that affects the large intestine. Normally, nerve cells called ganglion cells stimulate muscles in the intestine to push stool out of the body. A child born with Hirschsprung's disease is missing these nerve cells in a part of the intestine. As a result, stool does not move properly through the intestine and severe constipation and even bacterial infection can develop. Symptoms include

vomiting, diarrhea, constipation and lack of weight gain. Surgery is the only proven way to treat Hirschsprung's disease. The surgeon will remove the part of the intestine that is missing the ganglion cells and reattach the healthy intestine. After the child heals, he or she will have a functioning intestine. However, oftentimes children with Down syndrome will continue to experience incontinence or severe constipation even after the surgical repair.

[www.familydoctor.org](http://www.familydoctor.org)

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***“We recently met a teacher who told us that her school “did inclusion, but it didn’t work, so the school “went back to the old way.”***

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## OUR SCHOOL DOESN'T OFFER INCLUSION

by Paula Kluth, Richard Villa and Jacqueline S. Thousand

**25 years ago, IDEA set the stage for inclusive schooling, ruling that every child is eligible to receive a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. Although many schools have been doing this for years, families still have to fight to get their children into general education classrooms. There are 3 common misunderstandings which still determine decisions about students with disabilities**

***“Our School Doesn't Offer Inclusion” - Inclusive schooling is not a policy that schools can dismiss. A student with a disability should be educated in the school he/she would attend if not identified as having a disability.***

***“She is Too Disabled To Be Educated in a Regular Classroom” - Many have the common misperception that students with disabilities cannot receive an inclusive education because they do not have the skills of the typical students. Students with disabilities DO NOT need to “keep up” to be educated in inclusive classrooms. Accommodations and modifications will allow her to demonstrate competence.***

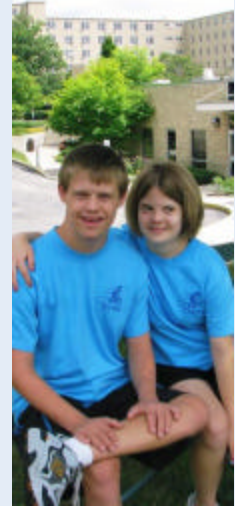
***“We Offer Special Programs Instead Of Inclusion” - Many school districts still operate programs for discrete groups of students identified with certain labels—emotional disabilities and severe or profound disabilities. School districts that automatically place students in a pre-determined type of school based solely on the basis of their perceived level of functioning rather than on the basis of their education needs, clearly violate federal laws.***

***For full copy of this article please see [www.kidstogether.org/noinclusion.htm](http://www.kidstogether.org/noinclusion.htm).***

## TEACHER EMAIL NETWORK

A third grade teacher submitted the following questions to our email group:

1. This little guy has difficulty getting off the bus - will refuse to get out of his seat or go to the end of the bus and hide under one of the seats. Last year it happened once or maybe twice every couple of weeks. Would like to "nip it in the bud" or have a plan ready to go for this year.
2. Student has some difficulty with behavior when in the regular classroom. We have work modified for him. At times he would refuse to come to carpet with group (we can work with that), swat at kids, call students/teachers names, take off shoes, lay on floor, and put hands down his pants. I am looking for good positive behavior charts to use with him. We really love working with this student and want to instill appropriate boundaries with him. We can work through a lot of these, but would really appreciate some new insight.



***To view responses to these questions, contact [sally@dsagc.com](mailto:sally@dsagc.com) to become part of the Teacher Email Network.***

## FROM OUR LENDING LIBRARY

**Freedom from Meltdowns**  
by Travis Thompson, Ph.D

### ***Solutions for Children with Autism***

Daily meltdowns and tantrums are one of the biggest challenges of life with autism and related disorders. This book contains the expert advice professionals and parents need to understand meltdowns, stop them before they start, and improve the quality of life for entire families. This how-to-guide helps readers

- Pinpoint meltdown triggers
- Understand how other disorders and health conditions contribute to meltdowns
- Use Functional Behavioral Assessment to uncover behavior patterns and develop interventions.
- Improve communication skills so children can find positive ways to express themselves.
- Prevent meltdowns in school and public
- Learn why children self-injure.

***To borrow this book, visit [www.dsagc.com](http://www.dsagc.com) Resources/Lending Library***



**Join us and  
8,000 friends  
at  
Sawyer Point  
on  
October 10,  
2009  
for our 8th An-  
nual Buddy  
Walk to cele-  
brate the ex-  
traordinary  
lives of people  
with Down  
syndrome.**

## DSAGC

The DSAGC was formed in 1981 by a small group of dedicated parents who envisioned better opportunities for their children. Today we provide a wide variety of programs and services for over 1,500 families in the Greater Cincinnati area. Our mission is to empower individuals, educate families, enhance communities and together, celebrate the extraordinary lives of people with Down syndrome.

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

The International Dyslexia Association, Ohio Valley Branch is presenting it's Fall Conference on October 17, 2009. It will be held at Crossroads Community Church 3500 Madison Rd in Oakley.

**Phonology and Learning to Read and Spell  
will be presented by**

**Louisa C. Moats, Ed.D.**

This workshop will be based on Module 2 of *LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling)* The content is applicable to elementary aged and older students with learning disabilities.

**Time: 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM 6 CEU's will be awarded.**

**Members \$80 Non-members \$115 and students \$60.**

Questions about the conference, please contact Carol Woods by fax at 871-0668 or at home at 871-5271. Space is limited.

## Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati

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HERE

