

VIRGINIA VOICE

Fall 2008

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SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- > "Who's Who" Among
VA CEC Board
Members
- > October 2008 CEC
Conference

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

CEC Board	1
President's Message	2
Leadership Roles	3
2008 Conference	4
Call for Articles	4

"WHO'S WHO" AMONG VA CEC BOARD MEMBERS



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PHOTO
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PHOTO
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Governor-At-Large

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**Conference Committee
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY NICOLE MYERS

Welcome to Putting the Pieces Together: Virginia CEC's 49th Annual Conference!

We are pleased to announce this year's conference theme: *Putting the Pieces Together!* Our theme serves as a simple reminder that special education encompasses many different issues at all grade levels, from proper initial assessment, research-based strategies/interventions, and on-going assessments and research to improve special education practice. We're looking forward to hearing our keynote speaker and workshop leader address these issues, as well as hearing from our other presenters on these very important special education topics.

Virginia CEC is delighted to have our keynote speaker and workshop presenter, Dr. Richard Solomon. Dr. Solomon is a developmental/behavioral pediatrician who developed The Play Project based on Dr. Stanley Greenspan's DIR (Developmental, Individualized, Relationship-Based)/Floor-time approach to working with children. This approach was developed after over 20 years of research on typical child development and DIR/Floor-time has demonstrated benefits for children with

Severe language problems, Severe regulatory problems, Down Syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Severe forms of Attention Deficit Disorder, and Autism. Dr. Solomon has trained hundreds of professionals and families in working with children using DIR/Floor-time through his program for children with autism in Michigan. While Floor-time has received a lot of media attention for benefits to young children with autism, it is a program for all levels. Because of the individualized strategies, older children and those with a variety of disabilities benefit from the model used in The Play Project and DIR/Floor-time.

After receiving feedback from VA CEC members last year, you'll notice that we've made several changes to this year's conference. The conference was moved to Saturday to allow as many teachers and families to participate as possible. You will also note that we've added a workshop to our conference, allowing our participants to choose between viewing a variety of sessions and attending the workshop. In addition, we've scheduled an event on Friday, our "Evening with Dr.

Solomon," where VA CEC members will hear Dr. Solomon talk about autism in the community and include time for participant questions. This free event co-sponsored by University of Mary Washington will allow conference participants and community members the opportunity to speak with Dr. Solomon. Another change to this year's conference involves online registration which will allow you to register using PayPal. (Dr. Solomon's workshops sell out quickly, so we encourage you to register early to save a spot. We have a limited number of seats available.)

This year, we will provide conference participants a schedule and materials to download approximately one week in advance of the conference via email, thus enabling participants to bring materials to the conference. This helps us to minimize paper waste and keeps costs down for our participants. (Please note that we will not be distributing conference packets this year).

We are looking to a fun-filled, educational conference and hope that you can join us! Register soon!



“DIR/Floor-time has demonstrated benefits for children with Severe language problems, Severe regulatory problems, Down Syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Severe forms of Attention Deficit Disorder, and Autism.”

CEC LEADERSHIP BY ANDREA BEAM

The 2008-2009 VA-CEC officers have now been selected and are ready to serve! So you have a better idea of the roles and responsibilities of your board, I've included a brief position description on each role.

If you are interested in serving on the board, or know someone who might be a good candidate, please forward their name and contact information to Dr. Nicole Myers at nmyers@umw.edu.

President

- Schedules board meetings
- Oversees planning of conference
- Participates in selection of award winners
- Participates in selection of conference presenters
- Welcome letter in newsletter.

President Elect

- To serve in the place of, and with the authority of, the president in case of the president's absence or inability to serve;
- To serve as chair of the Program Committee for the annual meeting;
- To plan other meetings according to the policies and directives of the Executive Committee; and

Vice-President, Past-

President, and Governor-AT-Large

- To represent the state/provincial unit at meetings of the CEC Representative Assembly and to participate in balloting and other activities necessary to the functioning of the Representative Assembly;
- To report regularly to the state/provincial unit Executive Committee, State/Provincial Board, State/Provincial Representative Assembly, and general membership on activities of the CEC Representative Assembly and CEC;
- To communicate issues and concerns from the state/provincial unit to the CEC Representative Assembly;
- To inform the state/provincial unit about the disposition of CEC Representative Assembly issues and advice forwarded to the CEC Board of Directors; and
- To take other specific direction from the state/provincial unit concerning the activities of the CEC Representative Assembly.

Secretary

- To keep a careful

record of the proceedings of each meeting of the Executive Committee, the State/Provincial Representative Assembly, and other meetings conducted by the unit;

- To carry on correspondence as necessary for the operation of the state/provincial unit.

Treasurer

- Oversees finances of the organization
- Develops a budget for Board approval
- Pays bills
- Processes purchase orders
- Keeps documentation of all transactions.

Membership Chair

- Maintains a distribution list of current VA CEC members
- Keeps members informed of important notices and events
- Brainstorms for ways to increase membership

Newsletter Editor

- Monitor CEC and other publications for information to be included in the newsletters.
- Provide the final editing of material for the newsletter.
- Oversee the mechanics of the newsletter being printed and mailed.
- Ensure that the newsletter is issued on time.



Secretary position is currently open and accepting letters of interest.

Please submit all letters of interest for open positions to Nicole Myers, VA-CEC President



Governor-At-Large position is currently open and accepting letters of interest.



Putting the Pieces Together: Virginia CEC's 49th Annual Conference

Keynote Speaker and Workshop Leader: Dr. Richard Solomon

Fredericksburg Hospitality House (former Holiday Inn)

Central Park, Fredericksburg, VA

October 3, 2008

What is Floortime? Greenspan developed this approach after researching typical child development for over 20 years and his extensive research indicates DIR/Floortime is beneficial for children with disabilities. Floortime has been successful with children with the following disabilities: **Severe language problems, Severe regulatory problems, Down Syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Severe forms of Attention Deficit Disorder, and Autism.**

What is DIR? The Developmental, Individualized, Relationship-based Model is actually the model and Floortime is one of the play-based approaches.

What is The Play Project? The Play Project is a DIR program in Michigan, which has helped train parents and professionals to work with children with autism using the DIR/Floortime approach.

Who can learn from the keynote and workshop? Everyone! We're all aware of the dramatic increase in number of diagnoses of autism. Dr. Solomon will share the latest research on autism in his keynote address. Later, in The Play Project workshop, Dr. Solomon will share how professionals and families can be taught DIR/Floortime and The Play Project Model to meet the needs of students with disabilities. While his program focuses on students with autism, The Play Project model and DIR/Floortime can be used for students with disabilities at various ages. Don't be misled by the play in play-based, this effective strategy can be used for all ages!

Intended Audience: Special Education Teachers (PreK-12), General Education Teachers, Parents, Community Agency Representatives, Physicians, Private Therapists, Early Intervention Staff, Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and anyone interested in learning about play based approaches.

Register Now: Go to: <http://www.virginiacec.org/2008conference.htm>. You can pay using your credit card or with a Paypal account. You will receive a receipt. Conference materials will be available for download approximately one week before the conference.

For more information, see: Dr. Richard Solomon and The Play Project, <http://playproject.org/> and Dr. Stanley Greenspan and DIR/Floortime, <http://www.floortime.org/index.php>

Now accepting articles for the Winter issue of Virginia Voice.

If you have an article or "hot topic" that you would like included in the next issue of Virginia Voice, please send it to Andrea Beam at abeam@regent.edu no later than October 31, 2008.