



# The Special Education Exchange

## Making a Good Referral

What can you do to help general educators when it comes to making a good referral?

Well, here's what the law says:

"Document that prior to the referral, the student was considered for all support services available to all students, such as: tutorials, remedial services and compensatory services. Document that the student continued to experience difficulty in the general classroom after the provision of such services."

So, the first thing you can do is find out what other services the student has received to help remediate the problem. Have all the general education interventions available to all stu-

dents on your campus been tried? If yes, then you would recommend that the teacher call an SRT to discuss it with a team.

Some people have the idea that a speech referral is different. But, the law does not make a distinction.

You're probably wondering what types of services are available for students who might be experiencing speech difficulties. Here are a few that the SRT could try and then document:

1. Provide models of exaggeration for the sounds the student might be missing.
2. Have the student repeat words.
3. Give the student visual cues to attend to what you

are saying when you are modeling a word.

We have very knowledgeable speech therapists in our district that can give you other ideas.

Remind the teacher that parents have a right to refer, and we respect that right. When a parent refers, it does not always mean that testing will happen. The SRT will still make a decision based on whether they think a student has a disability and an educational need. We don't want to test students that can be helped outside of special education.



*Happy Fall!!*

## Para Talk

Our paraeducators participated in their first

P.E.R.K.S. session on September 22. Taking data to make decisions was discussed. Teachers, if one of the paras you work with went to this session, let her show you some of the new

techniques. The next session will be on November 17. Working with the Autistic child will be discussed.

Future Sessions:

*February 16, 2005*

*Tough Kids Toolbox II*

*April 13, 2005*

*American Sign Language II*

See you there!

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# Parts of Speech Review Lesson

**Title - Tongue Twisters/  
Reviewing Parts of Speech  
By - Ryla Pollan, Henrietta ISD  
(used with permission)  
Primary Subject - Language  
Arts  
TEKS 4-8.18 (C)(D)(E)**

Students not only have fun with this creative writing activity, but they also review several parts of speech!

**MATERIALS:**

- \* pencil and paper

**METHOD:**

1. Start with sharing some well-known tongue twisters with your

students. They get really involved as they try to repeat them and share others. Next, challenge your students to write their own tongue twisters. I use this model to get them started:

- \* Nouns - use at least one (Betty)
- \* Verbs - use at least one (bought)
- \* Adjectives - use several (brainy, billion, big, Buicks, black)
- \* Adverbs - use at least one (busily)
- \* Prepositional Phrases - use at least one (by the

bay)

2. Using this model, we now have a tongue twister: Brainy Betty busily bought a billion, big, black Buicks by the bay.
3. Have students write several. Let them go through the peer editing process. Then print final copies to display on a bulletin board or put them together for a class book.

## What's New in Special Education?

New Braunfels ISD, along with Seguin and Shertz Cibilo, is asking for support and participation in the Life Transition Expo to be held in New Braunfels, Thursday, November 18. The event will be held at New Braunfels High School in the Commons area from 5-8 pm. Exhibitors this year will provide information regarding agency/company services which assist students, includ-

ing those with special needs, in transitioning from school to community, in social/recreation and leisure activities, in housing opportunities, as well as in vocational opportunities. If you know someone who would like to be an exhibitor, you can contact Becky Wade

*Contact Becky Wade at 5703 for more information*

who is serving as the Exhibit Coordinator this year. You may attend the event at no cost.

## Ghostie Cookies/Just a little late!

**Nutter Butter Cookies  
White Chocolate for Melting  
Mini Chocolate Chips  
Halloween Cellophane  
Wrappers/Ribbon or Raffia**

Melt white chocolate in a

double boiler, or microwave. Dip and coat the cookies entirely with the white chocolate. Immediately give the ghosties two mini chocolate chip eyes. Let dry on a cooling rack. Wrap two in cello-

phane bags and tie with ribbon or raffia.



Autumn Art!

## Thoughts for the ARD Committee.....

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They come to the ARD  
Warily, Warily,  
Knowing full well what they're not  
going to hear  
That their son is in the top reading  
group,  
Or that he's a whiz at math,  
Or that he's entering the science fair  
Or that he was last to sit down  
At the spelling bee.

But, let them hear what I have to say.

Let them hear  
That even though school is hard for  
him  
(And probably always will be),

He never gives up.  
He struggles on until he gets it,  
And what he's learned, he's earned;  
It's his to keep.

Let them hear  
That this assessment doesn't mean  
Their son's not good enough.  
Rather, this standard of measure-  
ment  
Isn't good enough to measure him.

Let me say  
And let them hear  
That he's as fine and brave and good  
a person  
As ever I've met.

They came this afternoon  
Warily, Warily.  
Let them go home satisfied  
And proud.



*Adapted and reprinted from The Dialog, Texas Educational Diagnostician's Association*

## Teachers and Paras, I Know You're Busy, But...

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Wouldn't it be great to see your name in the byline in our newsletter? What a great item to include in your portfolio!

So, as you learned in kindergarten, be ready to share! Send us your lesson plans, your great ideas, a teacher joke, a quick recipe for supper when it's been a

bad day, your success stories, pictures from your classroom of special projects, ideas that have worked for you to get a point across to your students, or classroom management ideas that have worked for you.

*I know you've always  
wanted to be  
published!*

The sky's the limit!  
We look forward to hearing from our many talented teachers and paraeducators out there....

## Using Graphic Organizers

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Graphic organizers are valuable tools for all teachers. Here what the research says about using graphic organizers:

Creating graphic organizers to illustrate the organization of ideas and information aids comprehension and learning (Flood and Lapp). After ten years of research on the use of graphic organizers to aid the comprehension of content area texts, (Dunston) found that when presented be-

fore reading to elementary students, graphic organizers aid comprehension and recall of information. After reading, students who construct graphic organizers, both elementary and secondary, had better recall and scores on tests.

A great site to visit to help you create your own graphic organizers:

<http://www.graphic.org/>



Autumn is a second spring  
when every leaf is a flower.  
~Albert Camus