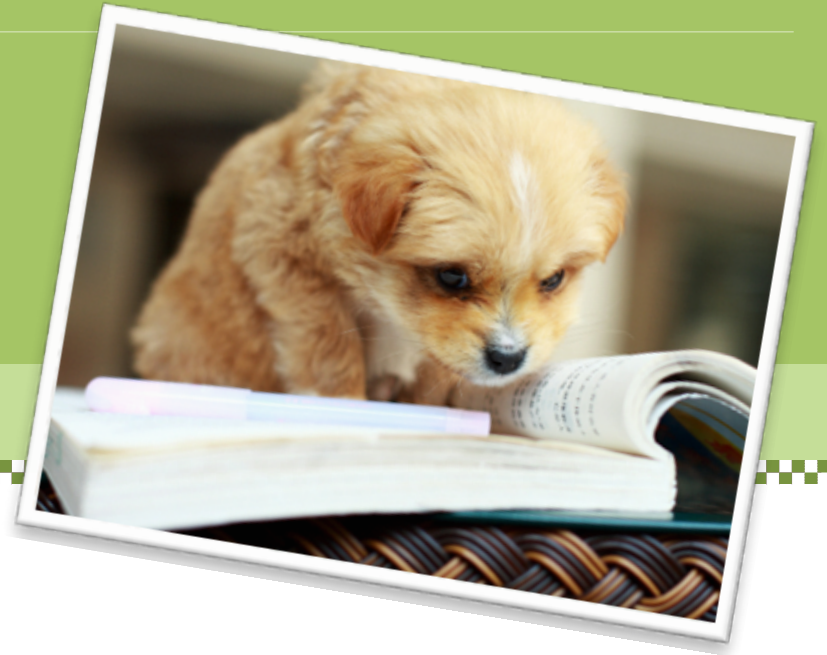


Learning Disabilities dyslexia & dyscalculia

Summer is a great time to jump-start LD intervention. Timing is everything!

Spring Issue, 2010



Tea & Talk @ Hycroft

May 12

The Low Achievement Approach to LD Identification

7-8:30 p.m.
Join us for tea after the talk.

An invitation only event for teachers

What is it and how does it affect the classroom teachers? Come listen to Dr. Winnifred Tang's talk!

May 26

Persistent Low Achievement & Learning Disabilities

7-8:30 P.M.
Tea Reception following

\$50

A talk for Chinese speaking parents who are wondering if their child has LD. Come meet Dr. Tang in person!

Inclusion Works!

It works even better when the timing is right.

Inclusion is indeed a controversial topic. Some people think it works while other people don't. Here in this issue of our newsletter, we have a happy story to share: the story of Jenny* who made progress by leaps and bounds through our work with her in cooperation with the school-based team.

When we took on the case of Jenny back in June of last year, she had just finished grade 5 and was entering grade 6. Her mother was very worried and was teary-eyed when she first spoke with us. We began by examining Jenny's previous work in school and reviewing the various specialists' reports. It was apparent that Jenny had some speech-language issues and we confirmed through our screening that she was dyslexic and possibly she had a mild form of ADHD as well.

Over the summer, we started Jenny on a vigorous program of phonological awareness training. In the mean time, we observed her closely and began



Classroom teachers are our best allies!

Cooperation between home and school is crucial to the success of inclusion. We work closely together with the classroom teachers to achieve a seamless delivery of special education services.



A metamorphosis was taking place...

She was enthusiastic and asking for more homework! She even beat her tutor in a word game!!!

putting together a comprehensive intervention design. We also started recruiting a tutor specifically for Jenny. By August, we have found a suitable tutor and orientation meetings with the new tutor began. In late August, we had several teaching sessions with Jenny and the new tutor at our office so they could get acquainted before September.

In the next few months, Jenny began to thrive. A metamorphosis

was taking place: Jenny, the once timid hatchling, came into her own. However, success did not happen instantly. There was a time when most of the comments from Jenny's tutor were related to her low self-esteem and lack of confidence.

Through patience and hard work, Jenny's tutor was able to win her over. Jenny was becoming a keen learner and the comments from the tutor were more and more encouraging. She was enthusiastic

and asking for more homework! She even beat her tutor in a word game!!!

Why was Jenny so successful? Much of it had to do with getting appropriate and timely help. I think Jenny came to us at the right time. Summer is a good time to jump-start LD intervention. Timing is everything!

** The real name was changed.*

Dr. Winnifred Tang on the Low Achievement Approach to LD Identification

In 2000, The Ministry of Education published *A Review of Special Education in British Columbia*. Responsible for this comprehensive review were Dr. Linda Siegel, Dorothy Lam Chair of Special Education from UBC and Stewart Ladyman, Superintendent for Field Liaison from the Ministry of Education. In this document, Siegel and Lady have recommended using the low achievement approach for identifying learning disabilities.

What is the low achievement approach? What are the pros and cons in using this approach to identify LD? Come to the talk on May 12th by Dr. Winnifred Tang and find out!

This is a *by invitation only* event for teachers. Content of the talk will be posted on our website blog after the event.



Dr. Winnifred Tang specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of learning disabilities. She has extensive experience working with LD students from an ESL Chinese speaking background. Her doctoral work was completed under the supervision of Dr. Linda Siegel, Dorothy Lam Chair of Education at UBC.