

Email News Update

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School Spotlight



Spencer Academy Faces Challenges Head On with Innovation



Students with Station Patrol Pack



Dr. Butzin visits Ms. Nelson's kindergarten class

ISI Executive Director **Dr. Sally Butzin** and ISI Board Member **Peter Butzin** had the privilege of visiting **Spencer Math and Science Academy** in Chicago in November. Located on Chicago's west side, Spencer faces many of the challenges of urban schools in high poverty neighborhoods. But with visionary leadership from Principal **Carolyn Palmer** and a team of innovative teachers (**Loujean Nelson, Liberty Greene, and Maureen Morrison**), they have adopted Project CHILD as their instructional framework in three primary classrooms.

"Our visit was such a joy," said Mr. Butzin. "The children were dressed in special tee shirts, and were eager to show us their station work. They even presented us with Chicago White Sox World Series champion hats and a special song."

"I am so impressed with the dedication of these teachers to try something different," said Dr. Butzin. "We had dinner together after the visit, and the teachers never stopped talking about school, as well as throwing out new ideas to try. Their professionalism and commitment to their students is very encouraging."

District leaders also visited the classrooms that day, so we hope that the success of Project CHILD at Spencer Academy will lead more schools to take a look. Stay tuned.

Institute Spotlight



Press Release

New Report Shows Hope for Florida's Failing Third Graders

Project CHILD lowers third grade retentions in 12 Florida school districts

The Institute for School Innovation (ISI) announces the release of a third party evaluation of its Project CHILD program conducted by EPPC Management. The EPPC report documents how Project CHILD's third graders in Florida far surpassed the state's 2005 third grade passing rate. While 10% of the state's third graders were held back, with another 10% promoted "for cause" even though they did not pass the FCAT, over 96% of the CHILD third graders with exposure to the program in prior grades passed the FCAT and were promoted to fourth grade. In addition, the vast majority of the CHILD students were from high poverty Title 1 schools.

Go here for the full press release. [Press release EPPC.htm](#)

Go here for the full report. [Third Grade Retention 2005.pdf](#)

Annual Conference News



Join us on Saturday, April 22, 2006 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando for the 16th Annual CHILD Conference. The theme of this year's conference is "CHILD: Puttin' It All Together."

Larry Bell, renowned educator and motivational speaker will give the keynote address on Filling in the Gaps.

Check the conference page on our website regularly for updates. You will find a brochure with all the hotel information and registration form.

<http://www.ifs.org/Annual%20Conference.htm>

Deadline to register is March 24th. Hotel deadline is March 15th.

[Go here for a Registration Form.](#)

Here are just a few of the titles of the Breakout Sessions from which to choose:

"Move to Read: Strategies for Whole Body Learning in CHILD"

"Keeping Your Head Above Water: 1st Year CHILD"

"Parents as Partners in CHILD"

Consultant Training

Saturday & Sunday, May 6 & 7, 2006- Hilton Hotel in Cocoa Beach, FL.

If you have successfully implemented CHILD for at least one year you should consider attending. To quote one of the attendees from last year, "If I never train anyone, I have learned so much I can take back to my own school and classroom that this weekend has been more than beneficial." This is a great time to refocus on the essential components of CHILD and to expand your peer network of fellow innovative educators. Keep your eye on the ISI website (www.ifs.org) for details and applications.

Leadership Academy

Friday & Saturday, June 23 & 24, 2006- Hilton Hotel in Cocoa Beach, FL.

Calling all administrators and coaches! Bring the family and spend the weekend at the beach while learning with your colleagues at the same time. The Academy runs from noon on Friday to noon on Saturday.



Technology Update

Hot Web Sites

- Hummingbird Educational Resources is a site geared to early childhood educators. Find lots of theme-based lesson plans <http://www.hummingbirded.com/index.html>
- Read-Write-Think is a partnership between the International Reading Association (IRA), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), and the MarcoPolo Education Foundation. Top notch site with high quality activities and lessons. <http://www.readwritethink.org/index.asp>
- The Reference Desk has lots of resources from "This Day in History" to "Site of the Day." There are links to a multitude of news and reference sites. This site really might be the "single best source for facts." <http://www.refdesk.com/>
- Hoagies' Gifted Page is not just for gifted students but if you are looking for resources for your best and brightest, this is a good place to start. You'll find conferences, catalogs, and even a Gifted 101 on-line course. <http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/>
- Cardboard Cognition is a unique site consisting on over 100 educational board games

created by students at San Diego State University. You'll find all levels and interests.

<http://edweb.sdsu.edu/courses/edtec670/Cardboard/BoardTOC.html>

- Beacon Learning Center's site has a plethora of lesson plans with a very user-friendly searchable data base. <http://www.beaconlearningcenter.com/>
- Teach-nology, the Art and Science of Teaching with Technology site, has over 67,000 lesson plans, rubrics, and worksheets. Create on-line forms and print out certificates and hands-on learning station ideas. http://teachers.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/
- Florida Center for Instructional Technology provides numerous free resources to help teachers integrate technology and boost academic achievement. <http://fcit.usf.edu/>
- An Online Resource for Kids and Parents is a directory of hundreds of articles and resources. Go to the Just for Kids section. <http://math-and-reading-help-for-kids.org/>
- Yahoooligans!: a categorized list of Internet sites for kids. <http://www.yahoooligans.com>
- The Internet Public Library's Youth Division: a collection of Internet resources for kids. <http://www.ipl.org/youth>
- Kid Info/School Subjects: A student-created site arranged by subject area. <http://www.kidinfo.com/SchoolSubjects.html>

Website Update

- **T News:** Do not miss the monthly Training Table News with ideas for your classroom. http://www.ifs.org/Training_Table.htm
- **New Software Reviews for 2005:** Twenty-nine software titles were reviewed this year for inclusion in the CHILD Software Correlation Guide. Go here for links to the Software Reviews as well as the Correlation Guide on the website. http://www.ifs.org/CHILD_software.htm
- **QUIA Assessment:** Make sure you get on to the password-protected area of the ISI website and go to the QUIA link. Here you will find a sample webpage that you can create, as well as directions to begin your subscription to QUIA - the on-line assessment program that comes with your CHILD renewal. www.ifs.org and go to the Infonet Subscriber's page.
- **Kid's Page:** Share your students' work here or have your students email us with their comments and we will post them. Looking for another CHILD school to email? Put in a request here. www.ifs.org/kids_page.htm
- **Calendar:** Go here to see about the latest events. Send us your school events to post here. www.ifs.org/calendar.htm



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