

SRA Direct Instruction Institute

Saturday, September 24, 2011

Keynote Speakers

Barbara Williams, M.Ed.

Barbara is the Program Leader for Learning Disabilities with the Waterloo Region District School Board. In her role as a Special Education Consultant, she facilitates professional development training sessions and effective implementation of Corrective Reading, Empower and PHAST PACES programs at a System level. Barbara provides leadership for service delivery to students with Learning Disabilities JK-12. Together with a team of itinerant Learning Disabilities Resource Teachers, hundreds of students are served via a model of capacity building alongside direct service.

The WRDSB began its implementation of DI 5 years ago. The System focus is to provide a continuum of service throughout the elementary and secondary grades. To this end, the Board has embarked on a number of pilot projects and program expansions. Initially, 25 sites were trained in Corrective Reading. Each year additional sites, grades and settings were included. As of this year, Corrective Reading is available in over 90 school sites and a variety of specialty programs. Corrective Reading is offered to struggling readers in Grades 4-12.

Through a research partnership with the Hospital for Sick Children, WRDSB has benefitted from an intensive DI model for our students with severe Learning Disabilities. The PHAST, EMPOWER and PHAST PACES programs are now part of WRDSB's service delivery model.

Students in Grade 2-4, who demonstrate a significant delay in reading are screened to be part of the Empower Reading Program. As of this year, the Board has over 40 sites participating in this research project as well as a PHAST PACES pilot project at the secondary level.

Susan Borden

Susan Borden received her M.A. in Special Education from the University of Oregon where she trained under Engelmann, the developer of DI. Susan has 25 years of experience as a Special Education teacher with the Toronto District School Board. She has been a teacher in learning disabilities classes, a resource teacher (SERT) and an itinerant resource teacher/consultant for students with exceptional needs for a family of 15 schools (TDSB).

Susan taught at the Learning Disabilities Research Program at The Hospital for Sick Children from 1984-1998 where she co-authored four programs. Most notably, the Phonological and Strategy Training Program (PHAST) is a successful reading program which targets the problem of transfer in word identification learning. PHAST incorporates DI as one of its strategies. Susan is also the co-author of several publications.

Susan now works for Engelmann's company, the National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI), where she is the Consultant for three elementary schools in the Atlanta Public School system. She has trained for other NIFDI sites in Detroit, Kansas, Philadelphia, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Trainers

Johanna Preston M.A.Ed., O.C.T., Director, [Angus Lloyd Associates](#)

Jennie Wilson M.Ed., Senior Consultant, [Angus Lloyd Associates](#)

Michele Davidson, B.Sc., M.Ed.

Michele has over 20 years of experience delivering Direct Instruction (DI) programs to regular and special education populations. Her special education experience includes behaviour therapy and training in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA). For the past 14 years she has trained and consulted in many US cities where she works as a Consultant for the creator of Direct Instruction, Siegfried Engelmann. Through the Canadian Institute of Direct Instruction (CIDI), Michele and her partner Susan Borden provide training and consultation on effective DI implementation in Canada. Michele is also one of the principals at V2 Educational Services Limited, a tutoring agency in the GTA which has specialized in Direct Instruction since 1988. V2 is endorsed by the National Institute for Direct Instruction.

Shayna Gaunt, MA, BCBA

Shayna has over 10 years of experience implementing Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and Direct Instruction (DI) with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other disabilities. She is a private ABA consultant in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She also has international experience with clients in the US, Costa Rica, England, Egypt and Qatar.

Shayna consults to schools, parents, and home-based programs, via direct supervision and through training workshops. She is the founder and director of Kid Mechanix, Inc., a Toronto-based ABA consulting agency. She also co-founded Learning 2 Play, Inc., a social skills center, and directed Beecroft Learning Centre, a centre-based ABA program for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). She graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with Masters in ABA and is a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA).



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