

DCD Messages[©]

MN Regions 5 & 7 DCD Community of Practice

Volume 18, Issue 1 – September 2015

DCD Committee Members

Sponsored by MN Regions 5 & 7

For the 18th year, a representative from each of the special education agencies in Central Minnesota (Regions 5 & 7) attends a quarterly meeting regarding topical issues in the area of Developmental Cognitive Disability. Each meeting has a topic and information shared is compiled in **DCD Messages** to assist staff in the field and parents stay informed. The representatives assume the responsibility of bringing information shared at the regional meeting back to their local area staff, parents, and administrators in person and through the electronic newsletter.

YOUR COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES:

Benton-Stearns	Sandra Haller/Debra Kuzma
Buffalo District #877	Lori Anderson
Elk River	Audra Wells
Freshwater	Cari Grenier
Little Falls	Tanya Bergman
MAWSECO	Shawna Moe/Linda Wharram
Mid-State	Jennie Stumpf
Paul Bunyan	Pam Stock
Regions 5 & 7 DCD	Barb Lhotka
Regions 5 & 7 RLIF	Mary Ruprecht
Rum River	Tanya Tacker
St Cloud	Danielle Mehr
SCRED	Connie Sim
Sherburne N Wright	Monica Lewis
West Central	Becky Bartz

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Calendar of Events

Dates and Topics 2015-2016

September 22, 2015—Sauk Rapids-Rice High School, Sauk Rapids, MN; 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM—Quality Indicators for DCD Programs: Program Structure, Technology, Behavior Support Systems.

October 2015—NO MEETING.

November 19, 2015—Sauk Rapids-Rice High School, Sauk Rapids, MN; 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM— Quality Indicators for DCD Programs: Standards-Based IEPs, State Testing, Transition, Recreation/Leisure.

December 15, 2015— Sauk Rapids-Rice High School, Sauk Rapids, MN; 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM— Quality Indicators for DCD Programs: Family Involvement, Collaboration, Transportation, Related Services, Curriculum, Instructional Methods, Emergency Procedures, Transition.

January 2016—NO MEETING.

February 2016—NO MEETING.

March 23, 2016—Sauk Rapids-Rice High School, Sauk Rapids, MN; 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM—Quality Indicators for DCD Programs: Personnel, Classrooms, Training, Scheduling; Planning for 2016-2017.

April 2016—NO MEETING

May 2016—NO MEETING

Information from meetings is published in the newsletter. The *DCD Messages* is distributed by the Committee members. Barb Lhotka, Facilitator blhotka@mawseco.k12.mn.us

DCD Resources

DCD Listserv

Are you a member of the Minnesota DCD Listserv? It is a wonderful resource for educators who work with students in the DCD category of special education. Members ask questions, share information, and discuss topics that are relevant to our day to day work with students birth through 21. Emails are automatically posted on your email account.

How to Join: Send an e-mail to garrett.petrie@state.mn.us. In the subject line, type “subscribe” and send the e-mail.

To Post on the Listserv: Send messages to dcd@lists.state.mn.us. Complete the subject line identifying your post. Type your message and send it.

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DCD Wiki

A wiki is like a filing cabinet website. You join the wiki and are able to access information as you need it. The only emails you will receive are the invitation to join and notification of updates. MN has a wiki for DCD staff and team members. It grows as new resources are found.

How to Join: Send an e-mail stating your name, email address, and where you teach to barblhotka@embarqmail.com. You will then receive an invitation to join the wiki. You will choose a password and will have access to all files and pages (categorized). Please write down the website address and your password for future use.

Apps for Behavior & Social Skills

Brain Works by Sensational Brain LLC

\$8.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 7.0 or later
Updated October 15, 2015
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch

“Provides kids with sensory breaks they need to function their best.” This app includes “130 sensory activities and more are being created on a regular basis.” Customizable for location, sensory system descriptions, activities, and timers. There are some mature themes.

Calm Counter Social Story & Anger Management Tool by Touch Autism

\$2.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 6.0 or later
Updated October 1, 2014
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch

“Calm Counter is a visual and audio tool to help people calm down when they are angry or anxious. The app includes a social story about anger, and audio/visual tools for calming down.

Choiceworks by Bee Visual, LCC

\$6.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 6.0 or later
Updated September 29, 2015
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch

A great app for helping students complete their “daily routines, understand and control their feelings and improve their waiting skills (taking turns and not interrupting).” There are three boards: Schedules, Waiting, and Feelings. “This app is designed for caregivers to provide clear and consistent support to foster a child’s independence, positive behavior, and emotional regulation at home and in the community. It can also be customized for teachers in a school setting.”

Emotionary by Me.Mu by leehsueh

Free on iTunes
Requires iOS 5.0 or later
Updated September 6, 2012
iPad

This app is “an emotion diary tool” to help students understand feelings/emotions.

Everyday Skills by AbleLink Technologies, Inc.

\$39.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 4.3 or later
Updated August 3, 2012
iPad

This is an older app, but it “provides self-directed learning sessions for 40 important skills necessary for living independently and accessing the community based on proven content developed by the Attainment Company. Everyday Skills provides an accessible learning tool that is specifically designed to be used by individuals with autism, learning or other developmental disabilities at their own pace.” The skills addressed include: community, personal, transition, and transportation.

IMD GoodDay Plan by GroMobi

Free on iTunes
Requires iOS 5.0 or later
Updated February 7, 2014
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch

“The Good Day Plan allows students and teachers to better communicate with each other while planning out a good day, ultimately allowing students to overcome challenges in the learning environment.” It helps the student recognize what goes into a “good day.”

Model Me Going Places by Model Me Kids, LLC

Free on iTunes
Requires iOS 4.0 or later
Updated September 6, 2012
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch

“Great visual teaching tool for helping your child learn to navigate challenging locations in the community. Each location contains a photo slideshow of children modeling appropriate behavior.”

Potty Training Social Story by Touch Autism

\$3.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 6.0 or later
Updated September 30, 2014
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch

This is an “interactive social story about potty training that is customizable for boys or girls. The app also includes a visual schedule for using the potty and an extensive FAQ page that lists answers written by a board certified behavior analyst to common potty training questions.”

Potty Training Time by Two Little Hands

Free on iTunes
Requires iOS 7.0 or later

Updated July 30, 2015
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch

This app reinforces potty training success and tracks progress.

Scene Speak by Good Karma Applications, Inc.

\$9.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 5.1 or later
Updated October 10, 2012
iPad

Users can use this app to “create interactive scene displays and social stories. Scene Speak allows an image to be edited with active ‘hotspots’. A hotspot is an area of the screen that can [be] ‘sound areas’ that can be selected and used as a means of communication. An image can have multiple ‘hotspots’ that can be edited to add sound, text labels or link to another visual scene. In addition, images with text can be then added into ‘books’ by theme or area of interest.”

Smile at Me by Fizzbrain LLC

\$2.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 3.0 or later
Updated February 5, 2011
iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch

Use the iDevice to teach the social smile to students who have difficulty with social cues. The goal is to play a game that teaches the child to interpret his/her own facial expressions.

Social Skill Builder: My School Day by Social Skill Builder, Inc.

\$9.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 6.0 or later
Updated August 15, 2015
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch

“Offers 19 modules, with various sequences of videos and questions for the user to view and react to by answering multiple choice questions. These video scenarios are of real interactions in preschool, elementary school, middle and high school and community settings. Within these settings children and young adults demonstrate common social interactions with their peers and other adults.”

Stories2Learn by MDR

\$13.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 7.0 or later
Updated May 4, 2014
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch

Stories2Learn “comes preloaded with 12 finely crafted social narratives that can be used to teach social skills in the areas of reciprocal play, non-verbal communication, playground and school rules, turn taking and more.” You can also create your own with audio and photos.

Talkin’ Photos by Intermediate District 287

\$2.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 4.3 or later
Updated March 30, 2012
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch

“Talk’n Photos is a simple to navigate talking photo album. Completely customizable, this app allows you to add text and voice recording to album covers as well as each entry (picture) within an album. Photos or symbols may be uploaded.” Grids can be created and recordings can be saved to the files.

Tell a Story with Tommy by Listen, Talk, Draw LLC

Community Sequences:

\$2.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 5.1.1 or later
Updated March 19, 2015
iPad

“Provides concrete visual prompts for students who have a language disorder. The sequence set develops vocabulary, grammar, story telling, sequencing, and more using real situations therefore it will stimulate language development for all children.”

Consequences:

\$6.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 5.1.1 or later
Updated March 19, 2015
iPad

“Visual examples of the consequences of the choices children make. This application was designed particularly for children with a diagnosis of autism, although it will also be useful to teach cause and effect and consequences for all children.”

That’s How I Feel by Smarty Ears

\$2.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 4.0 or later
Updated June 23, 2011
iPad

This app helps “non-verbal children and adults express their feelings using Smarty Symbols.” The symbols are in three groups: positive feelings, neutral feelings, and negative feelings.

Turn Taker: Social Story & Sharing Tool by Touch Autism

\$2.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 6.0 or later
Updated September 30, 2014
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch

This app “uses visual and audio cues to facilitate turn taking and sharing for any child. The app also includes an illustrated social story about game play and sharing.”

Using My Words to Ask for What I Want Social Story by Touch Autism

\$2.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 6.0 or later
Updated September 30, 2015
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch

“This app includes a 13 page social story about using words to ask for what you want, and a simple visual support for manding, or asking for different objects or activities.”

Video Scheduler by MDR

\$12.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 4.3 or later
Updated March 31, 2013
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch

Use video to illustrate schedules. This app has features that “include various orientation locks, which prevent students from engaging in stimulatory behaviors with the video. Users can also select from three video and picture sizes. There’s also a pass code function, which can be applied to prevent users from skipping around to preferred aspects of their schedule.”

Visual Schedule Planner by Good Karma Applications, Inc.

\$14.99 on iTunes
Requires iOS 5.1 or later
Updated May 22, 2015
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch

“Completely customizable visual schedule iPad app that is designed to give an individual an audio/visual representation of the ‘events of their day’. In addition, events that require more support can be linked to an ‘activity schedule’ or ‘video clip’ to help model the task even further.”