

Autism Spectrum Disorders

Goodhue County
Education District

February 2015

Volume 5, Issue 5

Inside this issue:	
Theory of Mind Game	2
Post Secondary and Transition Fair	2
GCED Autism Licenses	2
ToyBox Tools	3
Upcoming Events	3

Universal Design for Learning

Recognition Networks

The "what" of learning



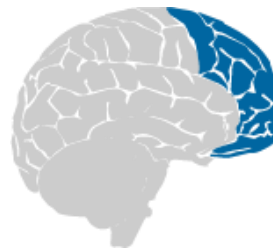
How we gather facts and categorize what we see, hear, and read. Identifying letters, words, or an author's style are recognition tasks.



Present information and content in different ways

Strategic Networks

The "how" of learning



Planning and performing tasks. How we organize and express our ideas. Writing an essay or solving a math problem are strategic tasks.



Differentiate the ways that students can express what they know

Affective Networks

The "why" of learning



How learners get engaged and stay motivated. How they are challenged, excited, or interested. These are affective dimensions.



Simulate interest and motivation for learning



What is Universal Design for Learning?

Universal Design for Learning

is a set of principles for curriculum development that give all individuals equal opportunities to learn.

UDL provides a blueprint for creating instructional goals, methods, materials, and assessments that work for everyone--not a single, one-size-fits-all solution but rather flexible approaches that can be customized and adjusted for individual needs.

Why is UDL necessary?

Individuals bring a huge variety of skills, needs, and interests to learning. Neuroscience reveals that these differences are as varied and unique as our DNA or fingerprints. Three primary brain networks come into play as shown in the above chart. UDL is an educational framework that guides the development of flexible learning environments that can accommodate individual learning differences. (Information taken from the CAST - Center for Applied Technology - website.)

Should I or Shouldn't I? What would other people think? Elementary version

The Elementary Edition of our popular Should I or Shouldn't I? What Would Others Think?™ game encourages players ages 8-11 to think about their own behavior choices and then compare how their perceptions match (or don't) those of the other players. The game makes thinking and talking about behavior

fun, and allows players to explore their own thoughts, perspectives, and choices within a safe and consequences-free environment. Game play offers abundant opportunities to practice Social Thinking concepts, perspective taking, and problem solving skills, and discuss how our individual behavior choices

affect those around us. The game is based on the Social Thinking concepts and vocabulary introduced by Michelle Garcia Winner and outlined in her many books and articles on the topic.

Also available in a Middle and High School version.



"Students don't have challenging behaviors, they have functional behaviors that challenge us!"

Jan Ostrom

SOUTHEASTERN MN POST SECONDARY & TRANSITION FAIR

The Goodhue County Education District-CTIC (Community Transition Inter-agency Committee) is once again sponsoring a **Post-Secondary & Transition Fair on Tuesday March 24th, 2015 at Zumbrota-Mazeppa High School, Zumbrota, MN.**

All 9-12th grade students and students in Transition Programs are welcome to attend this event. We are very excited to, once again, host this event and provide students from Southeastern MN the opportunity to meet with Post-Secondary representatives and transition specialists, and assist them with their college/post-

secondary planning.

Please **"Save the Date- March 24, 2015,"** and look for more information in the next month that will provide registration information, a schedule of the day, and a list of breakout sessions to attend.

Autism Licenses for Goodhue County Education District

The Goodhue County Education District now has 15 teachers who have been approved for eligibility for the new Autism License. Three more applications (that I know of) have been sent in for the March 1st approval deadline. After this date, no more initial eligibility packets will be accepted by the Board of Teaching.

The GCED breakdown looks like this:

Cannon Falls-2

Goodhue-2

GCED-2

Kenyon/Wanamingo-2

Red Wing-5

Zumbrota/Mazeppa-2

We are very excited to have ASD licensed teachers in each of the districts. Congratulations to all of you who have worked so hard to get these licenses!

!!!Thank you!!!

TOYBOXTOOLS.COM

Hasbro and The Autism Project team up to introduce ToyBox Tools, a free online resource where caregivers and educators can find tools to make play easier and more accessible for children with developmental disabilities. ToyBox Tools is a collaboration connecting evidence-based practices with classic Hasbro toys.

ToyBox Tools can help children experience the joy of play with three levels of tools available for those who need support: basic play, expanding play and social play levels.

Parents and caregivers can visit the [ToyBox Tools site](#), access the tools they need, download and print them for use at home or in the classroom. Each level caters to different aspects of play that children may need help with, like simply introducing the toy and how to use it, experiencing alternative ways to play with a toy and encouraging turn-taking with peers. ToyBox Tools recognizes that parents and caregivers know their child's ability best and encourages them to use their judgment in selecting the right product and level of play appropriate for their child.

Supportive tools are included for the following classic Hasbro products:

- Classic Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head
- Mr. Potato Head Silly Suitcase
- Play-Doh Animal Duffel Bag
- Play Doh Drill 'N Fill
- Elefun Busy Ball Popper
- Rescue Bots Rescue Assortment
- Connect 4
- Trouble



Choose one of the classic Hasbro toys at www.toyboxtools.com with accompanying Play Book, Play Mat (when necessary), Video and supports. Our "How To" Tool Kit will assist you as you set up the play scenario. The ToolKit includes:

["How To" Teach Tip Sheets](#) - ["How To" Information Sheets](#) - ["How To" Use Social Narratives](#)

Information taken from the ToyBox Tools website.



Upcoming Events

March 24, 2015—Post Secondary and Transition Fair

April 26-28, 2015 - Charting the C's Alexandria

April 29-May 2, 2015 - 20th Annual Autism Society of MN Conference