

GREETINGS FROM BOLD!

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to bring you BOLD's second newsletter for 2005. Inside you will find details on workshops planned for July to September as well as brief reports on the wide range of activities we carried out earlier this year.

New friends of BOLD, receiving this newsletter for the first time, might like to know that BOLD's work falls into 5 main areas: -

1. Awareness raising, education and outreach
2. Development and implementation of intervention programmes
3. Training of volunteer corps to conduct intervention programmes
4. Research and publications on learning difficulties
5. Providing resource and referral services for parents and teachers

We try to spread our activities over all 5 areas. But we do change our focus from time to time while keeping some core activities such as intervention programmes running all the time.

Please send us your criticisms and suggestions so we can keep improving.

Do stay in touch, come to our workshops, and join us as a volunteer if you can spare the time.

We look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at our workshops.

Tan Liok Ee, Chairperson

Contact us:

- If you need someone to talk to because your child/student may have a learning/emotional/behavioural difficulty
- If you need to know the services/centres/professionals who can help children with learning difficulties
- If you would like to know how play therapy/intervention can help children with learning/emotional/behavioral difficulties
- If you enjoy working with children & have a few hours a week to spare
- If your school/institution would like us to give a talk on dyslexia, ADD/ADHD, emotional/behavioural problems, or other learning difficulties faced by children
- If you know someone who can share their expertise by giving a talk or conducting a workshop
- If you need materials/resources to help children with learning difficulties, check out our collection of books, articles, news cuttings,

BOLD is a project of the Penang Educational Consultative Council (PECC) under the Portfolio of the State Education Committee. Its activities are organized by the Non-Formal and Special Education Needs Working Committee of the PECC. The Executive Secretariat of the PECC is the Socio-Economic and Environmental Research Institute (SERI). BOLD's activities are funded by the Penang State Government and the Penang Skills Development Centre (PSDC).



Upcoming Events – Register Now!!!



Phone: 2278611

Email: boldpace@yahoo.com

Starting Maths

How do preschool children learn math? What are good methods of introducing number concepts and basic maths functions such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to pre-school children? The facilitator of this one-day workshop shares effective ways to build a good foundation in math by making the learning experience interesting and fun through activities, games, songs and stories. Participants will learn how to make teaching aids & use them to help children acquire maths concepts based their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

Date: July 24 (Sunday)

Time: 9.00 am to 4.30 pm.

Fees: RM60/=

Registration Deadline: July 17

Target Audience: Pre-school teachers.

Facilitator: Mr Chow Chee Keong, an engineer by training, who runs a kindergarten, will share his passion, insights and experience on this topic.



Sensory Integration and Learning difficulties

How does our brain learn through our senses? How is motor learning different from academic learning? What is Sensory Integration and what does it mean to have sensory integration disorders or dysfunction?

Many children with Learning Difficulties suffer from Sensory Integration Disorders. Learn about the main types of sensory integration disorders; how we can identify children who have such disorders.; what is the role of Occupational Therapy in intervention; and, how to use good strategies and management techniques both at home and in the classroom.

Come to this one-day workshop that will include practical demonstrations, group discussions and video presentations.



Date: August 14 (Sunday)

Time: 9.00 am to 4.30 pm.

Fees: RM60/=

Registration Deadline: August 7

Target Audience: Parents, Caregivers, Teachers

Facilitator: Mr J. R. Karthikeyan

Currently head of the Occupational Therapy Dept., Cerebral Palsy Association, Penang; graduate in Occupational Therapy, Annamalai University, India; advanced training in Sensory Integrative theory & treatment at the University of Southern California, U.S.A., & Neuro-Developmental Treatment through NDTA, U.S.A., has extensive experience working with children with learning, developmental and neurological impairments, both in India and Malaysia.

Methods of Teaching Chinese

Look out for this 2 day workshop to be held in September. Facilitator: Ms Tan Geng Geng from Singapore
Dates and details to be announced later.

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Venue for All Events: Seminar Room, Caring Society Complex

NEWS ABOUT SOME BOLD ACTIVITIES

ADD/ADHD Support Group

About 30 persons responded to our call to form a support group with the objectives of bringing parents & teachers together to share experiences & problems, learn from each other, and, to work for better support services for ADD/ADHD children in Penang. Participants at the first meeting on 26 March agreed on some short-term and long-term objectives for the group. A decision was also made to meet every two months. At the second meeting in May, 3 parents shared their stories about the difficulties they faced in seeking diagnosis and intervention for their children. They emphasized the importance of accepting the child, teaching self-help and social skills, and setting up a clear structure and routine for the child. Parents have to be consistent and persistent. They need lots of patience to see through all the hard work, including trying to work closely with teachers. This led the group to request BOLD to organize a workshop specially for parents of special children to help them cope with the stress and achieve emotional balance. A half day workshop, to be facilitated by Dr. Lynne Yong Ee Lin, a Consultant Clinical Psychologist, will be held on 2 July at 2.30 pm on ***Coping Techniques for Parents of Special Children.***



Sharing our expertise at a time of crisis

The Tsunami of 26 December 2004 heightened awareness of the need for trained personnel to help children who go through traumatic experiences. Ms Leong Min See, BOLD Programme Coordinator, contributed to several training workshops for school counsellors for primary & secondary school counsellors. She focused on Play Therapy Methods that can promote psychological recovery for children survivors traumatised by tsunami.



Reaching out to schools

Dr. Tan Liok Ee, BOLD chairperson gave several talks on Dyslexia - to parents and teachers of SK Bayan Baru on January 2 as part of the school's orientation programme for new students; to teachers of SK Seberang Jaya on January 29; and teachers of SMK Taman Perwira as well as some neighbouring primary schools in the area on June 25.

BOLD continues to support and supervise the work of 2 volunteers recruited by SK Bayan Baru as Learning Support to help children with Learning Difficulties. The four children are showing signs of good progress in reading, writing and maths, while the volunteers are enjoying their work and have decided to continue with their commitment in 2006!

SJKT Mak Mandin has recruited 6 volunteers who are currently undergoing training as Learning Support Assistants with Dr. Tan and Mr. Tan Kien Hooi, BOLD's newly appointed Literacy Intervention Coordinator. Mak Mandin will soon be the first Tamil school to provide intervention for children with Learning Difficulties.

Taking Part in National Mental Health Conference, May 26-28

Both Min See and Liok Ee took part in this conference. Min See shared her experience as a Play Therapist working with Penang children traumatised by the December 2004 Tsunami while Liok Ee reported on BOLD's pilot intervention project for children with learning difficulties in mainstream classes in 10 Penang schools in 2003.

DID YOU MISS THESE WORKSHOPS?

In March, participants in a 2 Day Workshop learnt the basic techniques of conducting Play Therapy sessions from Ms Leong Min See. Children in distress or traumatised by abuse can, through play, express themselves, explore their feelings and cope with their experiences. Following the workshop, Ms Leong conducted an extended training course for a smaller group of prospective BOLD volunteers and staff from the Penang General Hospital.

BOLD will be conducting more training courses in Play Therapy in 2006. ***Call us if you are interested in Play Therapy but missed this year's workshop. Cont.next page....***

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In April, a very interesting session on how to identify and assess **Speech and Language delays/disorders in children** was conducted by Ms Phoon Hooi San and Ms Low Hui Min, 2 Speech Pathologists. Video clips helped the audience to understand better how different kinds of intervention methods are used for Special Needs Children. Unfortunately, there were too few takers for the proposed follow-up course

Those who attended the One Day Workshop on Dyslexia in late April learnt a great deal from Ms Sheila Deveraj's beautifully illustrated presentation with its very personal touch. They also had fun trying out some parts of a learning strategy called Audiblox which Ms Lee has tried and found to be effective in helping Dyslexic children. Ms Lee also shared her understanding of the Davis approach to Dyslexia with the group.

Children's Mansion — a story by Leong Min See

Once upon a time, there was a government that declared war on a nearby country which they suspected had developed some complicated weapons. The war began, no complicated weapons were found. The nearby country was instead defeated by the complicated weapons used by the invading government.

Many people, including children, died. One boy lost all his 6 brothers and sisters, and many of his friends when his village was destroyed by the bombs used by the invading army. The boy was very sad. He asked his mother, 'Where are my brothers and sisters now? What happened to them?' 'They are dead', she said. 'So where do they go? Can I see them again? I miss them so much'.

His mother wept and said, 'People who are alive like you and me live here, in this land. But the children who died live in another world. Look at the oil fields all over our country - deep beneath the oil fields, there is a place called the Children's Mansion. All dead children go and live there.'

'How can they live? Do they have clean water and food?' 'Of course they have. In the Children's Mansion, many turtles look after the children. The turtles have special power, they can transform the oil into clean water and food. So, the children have clean water and enough food to eat, and they grow up there.' 'Can I go there?' 'No, only children who die go there.'

The next day, the boy was wandering around the oil field in his village when he saw the invading soldiers pumping oil from the field. He ran towards the soldiers, shouting angrily at them. The soldiers fired at him thinking that he was carrying a bomb to blow himself up.

In fact, the boy carried nothing other than his own thin body. As the fragile boy lay in his mother's arms, he said to his mother before his last breath, 'I was trying to stop them, the children in the Mansion need the oil, I want them to have clean water and enough food there...'



Many many years later, a tourist found a tomb in the village. The words on the tombstone were:
'For my beloved child who now lives peacefully in the Children's Mansion'.



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