



Learning Assistance Teachers' Association

a Provincial Specialist Association of the BCTF

Upcoming Events

Note: The following data are provided for information only.
LATA does not endorse or support any of the following:
** Hyperlinks active

**NEWS &
FEATURES**

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**Editor:
Michelle Redman**

**Supporting Individuals with FASD: Grow Education Series
March 16, 2022**

<https://www.able2.org/events/supporting-individuals-with-fasd-mar/>

Instructional Self-Checks - Virtual Workshop February 11, 2022

https://devstu.secure.force.com/pmtx/evt_QuickEvent?id=a1J3q00000mBtmx&cntry=US

Inside the Writer's Workshop, K-6 February 9, 2022

https://devstu.secure.force.com/pmtx/evt_QuickEvent?id=a1J3q00000mBtqa&cntry=US

POPARD training sessions and series

<https://autismoutreach.ca/upcoming-training-dates/>

CANCHILD Webinars (McMaster University)

<https://canchild.ca/en/research-in-practice/f-words-in-childhood-disability/webinars>

International Dyslexia Association:

<https://dyslexiaida.org/webinars/>

ACT: Autism Community Training

<https://www.actcommunity.ca/>

Experience Dyslexia - IDA

<https://norcal.dyslexiaida.org/experience-dyslexia/>

Florida Center for Reading Research

<https://www.fcrr.org/>

Reading Simplified: How to Start with the Science of Reading

<https://readingsimplified.com/science-of-reading-foundational/>

Reading 101 (free):

<https://www.readingrockets.org/teaching/reading101-course/modules/course-modules>





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Teacher Profile: Bridget Brousseau

School District – SD 23 Central Okanagan Hudson Road Elementary
Title - Learning Assistance Teacher & ELL Specialist Gr. K - 5



- **What is your best advice when preparing to develop IEPs?**

When I prepare an IEP, the first work I do is involve the student. I talk with the student to see if they understand what an IEP is and why they need to have one. Most of the time I find students are unaware as to why they need an IEP and what is the purpose. We then discuss their learning so far in school: what they find success in, what are the challenges. They start to open up and understand that it's ok to not know everything or be good at everything. Then we have a discussion about who they are as a learner and from that we co-create goals and create a profile of who they are as a student. The aforementioned, allows the student to be part of the process and they begin to take ownership of their IEP. I feel they then become more empowered to guide their learning and feel that it is 'ok' to ask for help when they do not understand something.

- **What do you expect from the administrators and other staff in the school/district?**

- **From administrators:**

I would like an understanding that we come with many years of experience to support students with various learning needs. To give us support by giving us time and resources to support our learning as LATs, so we can better support our students and teachers.

- **From other staff/teachers:**

I would like teachers to continue to be receptive and open to LATs working together to support themselves and their learners. For me as an LAT, I truly enjoy being able to discuss new support ideas, strategies, lessons and even teach in their classroom!

- **From the district:**

Recognition that we are an invaluable asset to the school and need to be full-time in elementary schools. Especially, now with the pandemic for the last couple of years, we are seeing more and more students with gaps in their learning. Continuing to have professional development and possibly a time where we can go and visit other LATs and see what they are doing, would be beneficial for learner support.

- **How do you continue to grow as a Learning Assistance Teacher?**

I speak with colleagues on a fairly regular basis, not just in my district, but in other areas of the province. I have also joined groups outside of my workplace for professional development. For the past year, I and a few colleagues have undertaken to find out more about the Science of Reading movement. So, now I'm undertaking to learn more about best practices based on science and research - what could be better!

Bridget is a LATA member



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February is Inclusive Education Month

Disrupting Misconceptions and Forging Pathways for Students with Developmental Disabilities (from Inclusion BC)

Inclusion BC and the **Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship (CIIC)** partnered to create four short films to raise awareness about the exclusion of students with developmental disabilities and to offer key information and possible pathways to success for students, families, and schools.

We convened focus groups that included former students, families, educators, Indigenous people, professionals, and community organizations to co-create the vision for these films. Drawing on their lived experiences, participants shared stories and offered examples of the issues and the barriers they face. Through this process, we identified the main messages that these films convey to support educators and the community at large, to advance inclusive education.

These short films can be watched individually or all together as a series, we invite educators to watch them with their colleagues and with their students. We hope they will provoke meaningful discussions. Inclusion BC and the CIIC would love to hear the actions that these films have inspired you to take.

<https://inclusionbc.org/our-resources/inclusive-education-film-series/>

Film 1: Exercising Self Determination in our Schools

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZqTk26qGiA>

Film 2: Getting Ready to Work in our Schools

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYCWc-BhVtA>

Film 3: Reframing Challenging Behaviour in our Schools

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvASrMhGYkE>

Film 4: Indigeneity and Disability in our Schools

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4el4CgIM8k>

Reframing Challenging Behaviour in our Schools:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJbF5iSKdQA>





Inclusive Education

Every child has the right to quality education and to have equitable access to it.

A Parent's Guide to Inclusive Education Pamphlet:

<https://inclusiveeducation.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/07/A-Parents-Guide-to-Inclusive-Education.pdf>

Myths and Misconceptions:

<https://inclusiveeducation.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2018/10/Catalyst-Myths-and-Misconceptions-FINAL.pdf>

Inclusive Education Canada: Includes resources in French

<https://inclusiveeducation.ca/>

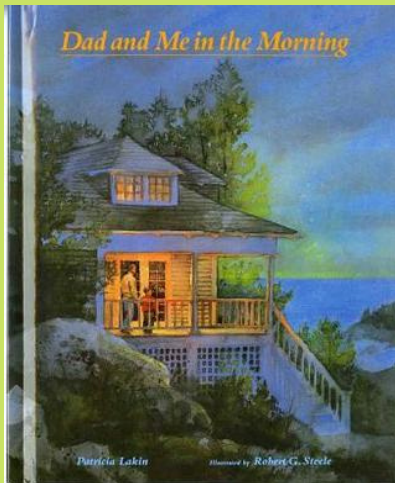


Inclusive Education **(<https://www.un.org/>)**

- a. The full inclusion of persons with disabilities in education is critical for a number of reasons:
 - i. Education contributes to personal well-being and is the gateway to full participation in society
 - ii. Education is an investment in the future and contributes to both social development and human capital formation
 - iii. Inclusive education promotes inclusive and tolerant societies, with benefits for students with and without disabilities, families of students with disabilities, and the larger community
 - iv. Excluding persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, from education has high social and economic costs that endure for a lifetime
 - v. Countries cannot achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development without ensuring access to education for children with disabilities
 - vi. States are legally obliged to include children with disabilities in education under international human rights law, in particular Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Including children and adult learners with disabilities in education is both an end in itself and also a means to an end, ensuring a life of participation and inclusion in the broader community.



Inclusive Education Book Loop



Dad and Me in the Morning

Written by Patricia & Pat Lakin Illustrated
by Robert G. Steele
ISBN: 0-8075-1419-5

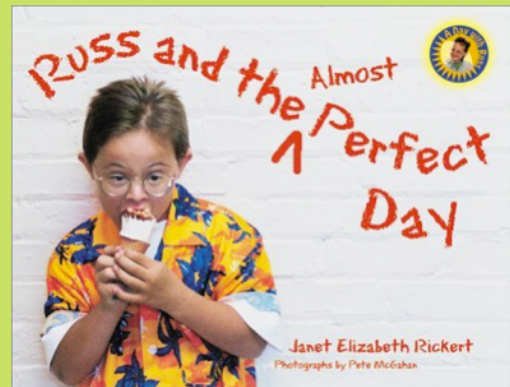
Far before anyone else in the house is up, a young boy sneaks in to wake his dad and they head out together, to watch the sun come up over the lake by their home. The illustrations in this book are stunning and present American Sign Language beautifully, as a Deaf son and his father communicate their strong bond with one another.



Seal Surfer Written

by Michael Foreman
Illustrated by Michael Foreman
ISBN: 0-15-201399-7

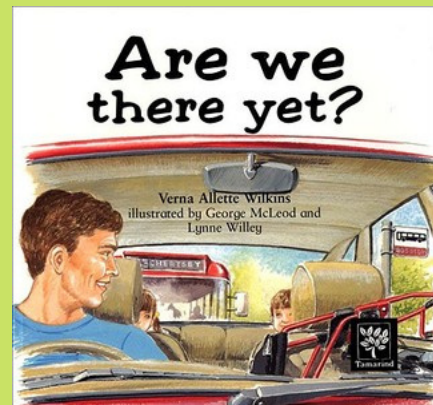
A boy and a seal pup strike up an extraordinary friendship that spans decades and sees them both through various stages and relationships in their lives. Fun activities like surfing and fishing are explored and present an active and independent depiction of a boy with a physical disability.



Russ and the Almost Perfect Day

Written by Janet Elizabeth Rickert
Photography by Pete McGahan
ISBN: 1-890627-18-6

This is just one in a series of lovely stories about the adventures of Russ. In this one, Russ is having an unbelievably amazing day. It seems nothing could go wrong until he is faced with a challenging decision that could impact others in a big way. Through the book's photographs, we learn that Russ, an energetic and popular young boy, has Down syndrome.



Are We There Yet?

Written by Verna Allette Wilkins Illustrated by
George McLeod & Lynne Willey
ISBN: 1-870516-39-X

Max and Amy are really excited when they learn that their dad has planned a surprise trip to a theme park but it seems that they'll never arrive. The father in this story is an active and much adored man who has a physical disability.



Cool Tools!

Logic Games!

So good for fine motor, creative thinking, and modelling!



<https://www.quantumgames.ca/>



Woo Hoo! One of our members has secured a Canadian supplier of this handy tool!!! Great for in-class support, intervention, and adapting materials. The Legiliner™ comes in multiple sizes and is refillable.



<https://legiliner.ca/>



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Do you know a local supplier we should highlight? email psac53@bctf.ca



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BCTF

Explore resources on a variety of Social Issues available for both professional growth and classroom use on TEACHBC - BCTF. Exploring a variety of issues including a wide variety of time topics.

As educators, we accept our broad responsibility to build a better world for future generations

- Aboriginal Education
- Antiracism
- Disability Justice
- Economic Justice
- Environmental Justice
- Gender-Based Violence
- International Solidarity
- LGBTQ2S+
- Peace and Global Education
- Status of Women

<https://www.bctf.ca/advocacy-issues/social-issues#aboriginal-education>



Association links, Training & Post-Graduate programming

Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Related Disorders:

<https://autismoutreach.ca/>



Autism Awareness Centre Inc.:

Check out the recorded webinars available through this Canadian site:

<https://autismawarenesscentre.com/product-category/past-webinars/>



Autism Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Awareness - Find resources through POPFASD:

<https://www.fasdoutreach.ca/resources/>



Get Involved with Special Olympics BC !!

<https://www.specialolympics.ca/british-columbia>



Vancouver Island University Graduate Diploma in Special Education:

<https://www.viu.ca/programs/education/inclusive-education-special-education-graduate-diploma>



University of Northern BC MEd. in Special Education:

<https://www2.unbc.ca/calendar/graduate/education>



University of British Columbia MED. in Special Education:

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/graduate-degree-programs/master-of-education-special-education>



Reading Teacher's Top Ten Tools:

<https://readingteacherstoptentools.com/>



Memorial University Graduate Diploma in Reading Development & Instruction:

<https://www.mun.ca/educ/programs/graduate/diploma/GradDipReadingDev.php>



February Question:

What is your District or School doing to promote Inclusive Education?

Please email psac53@bctf.ca

We are continuing to look for your recommendations for Level A and Level B assessment resources!

Please email psac53@bctf.ca

We are excited to begin building a resource bank as part of the LATA website!

Check out the following groups on Facebook and let us know who else to follow:

[LATA BC](#)

[Science of Reading - British Columbia](#)

[Canada's Science of Reading - What I Should have Learned in College](#)

[Special Education Resource Teachers](#)

[Special Education Teacher Leaders](#)

[Math Intervention Matters](#)

Members' Questions:

Please send your recommendations to psac53@bctf.ca

Do you have a question that we can put to members?

Send us an email: [**psac53@bctf.ca**](mailto:psac53@bctf.ca)

Join the Executive:

Volunteering as a member-at-large on the LATA Executive is a great way to build cross-district relationships, to share ideas for great resources, to support others in the field, and to bring speakers to your colleagues through invitation at our annual conference in October.

Please contact us if you are interested in joining the Executive.



FREE RESOURCES!

Visit these blog posts for information and free resources:

1. <https://sites.google.com/pattan.net/pattan-literacy/2020-pattan-literacy-symposium/language-comprehension-strand>
2. <https://www.idaontario.com/french-sl-resources/>
3. <https://sarahsnippets.com/>
4. <https://thisreadingmama.com/>
5. <https://www.themeasuredmom.com/>
6. <https://www.mrsdscorner.com/>
7. <https://www.oneroomschoolhouse.net/>
8. <http://www.breezyspecialed.com/>
9. <https://mrspspecialties.com/>
10. <https://www.earlywood.org/domain/159>
11. <https://sharemylesson.com/collections/special-education>
12. <https://learn2teachwithbrandie.com/resources-teachers/>
13. <https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/resource-library/>
14. <https://do2learn.com/>
15. <https://autismclassroomresources.com/free-special-education-webinars/>
16. <https://education.ufl.edu/uflivirtualteaching/main/>
17. <https://www.reallygreatreading.com/heart-word-magic>
18. <https://www.carlasiravo.com/music>
19. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPJqkhSNKynPzgLj4Xuqp9g>

Do you know of free resources we should add to our list??
email psac53@bctf.ca



LATA Goals

The LATA Executive continues to work towards the goals identified below:

- 1. To increase engagement with LATA members by using effective communication strategies**
 - a. Website, Email, Newsletters**
 - b. Social Media**
 - i. Twitter and Facebook to support**
- 2. To support and to provide mentorship for those moving in to the Special Education field**
 - a. Scholarship - application available on <http://www.latabc.com/>**
 - b. Connecting with new-to-district and mentorship organizations within various school districts**
 - c. presentation at New Teachers' Conferences (e.g., BCTF New Teachers' Conference, January 2021)**
- 3. Continue offering Learning Support/Inclusive Education professional development opportunities for members (service to members)**
 - a. Collaborative Teacher Inquiry Project (TIP)**
 - i. We are fortunate to work alongside Catherine Quanstrom and Jessica Willows, BCTF Facilitators, for five half-day meetings to discuss**
 - 1. The goal of this project is to collect data from BCTF Learning Assistance Teacher members on**
 - a. the challenges faced by them in this role**
 - b. to identify areas/resources/supports for members**
 - c. seek guidance on ways to improve and increase support for students with learning disabilities/challenges/exceptionalities.**
 - 2. Thank you for supporting future surveys and for reaching out to us via email with any suggestions and supports on this topic. See the BCTF Inquiry cycle.**
 - b. Seeking out new and diverse speakers for workshops and the annual LATA conference.**
 - c. Engage with Ministry of Education staff, University departments, etc., as appropriate.**
 - d. Network and Collaborate with other PSAs**
 - e. PSA Council meeting update**
 - i. Three times a year, the Presidents of the 32 Provincial Specialist Associations (PSA) meet to discuss issues of importance to the membership and to represent issues faced by members. The next PSA Council meeting is on March 4. Please send your Executive (psac53@bctf.ca) any issues of importance so that we can discuss possible ways for changes to be brought about in working and learning conditions.**
 - f. Workshops offered through district-based conferences (e.g., Surrey Teachers' Association (May), Victoria Teachers' Association (Feb 12, 2021))**

