



The Learning Disabilities Association of Northeast Ohio empowers those with Specific Learning Disabilities to realize their potential and achieve their goals.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Friends:

There are exciting times ahead for our organization.

We are grateful to all of our partner organizations and clients who took the time to provide us feedback on our on-line survey. As your new Board President, I welcome your comments, compliments and suggestions.

To update you: Our name change became official at our Annual Meeting in October. We are seeing vast improvements to our website, and continue to advance the awareness of our organization with appearances on television and through public presentations. Still, there is so much to do to get the "word out" about the wonderful programs and services that our organization has to offer. If you have an idea that could help, or are interested in having a presenter from our association come and speak to your business or organization, please contact our Director of Marketing, Marilyn Evans, at 216-581-4549.

Finally, I am pleased to report that our ranks have been enriched by the addition of the following new board members: Robert Calderwood, Jr., Jeremy Harrison, Lee Nejak, Hansal N. Patel and Tracey Turnbull. All of these tremendously talented individuals bring a demonstrated commitment to the Learning Disabilities Association of Northeast Ohio and significant community leadership experience to their governance role within our organization. We are pleased to welcome them and look forward to their leadership in the years ahead.

Thank you everyone, for all you do and continue to do for this very worthwhile enterprise.

Deepest regards,

Lynn Jacobs



IMPORTANT DATE!

FRIDAY

- ◆ Spring 2009: "GREAT MINDS DON'T LEARN ALIKE" GALA

MARCH 6, 2009

LOOK FOR A
"SAVE-THE-DATE"
ANNOUNCEMENT!

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Children should never fear going to school, and parents should never be afraid that their children aren't getting the very best education they deserve.

The Learning Disabilities Association of Northeast Ohio (LDANEO) partners with parents and schools to identify children with specific learning disabilities (SLD) who are struggling in school. We can help guide you through and explain the evaluation procedure, all the while offering you another set of eyes to help review your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Our organization is the only agency in Northeast Ohio that provides a continuum of services for individuals with specific learning disabilities, ranging from early intervention to life-long programs. Much of the agency's work relates to education, facilitation, and the development of partnerships with schools and other organizations to foster a better understanding of SLD and the Special Education process.

At LDANEO, we are your facilitator, your partner, your friend. Paint the very best future for your child. And we'll be there to help you—
—every step of the way.

Ellen S. Fishman, M.Ed.



WINTER SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

**LEARNING PROPER
SOCIAL SKILLS ARE
JUST AS IMPORTANT AS
LEARNING MATH SKILLS...
MAYBE MORE.**

You know what your child likes to eat. You know what your child likes to wear. You know what grades your child gets. But do you know why your child may not have that many friends?

Do you have a child with a specific learning disability currently enrolled in grades 3-5? Does this child need help with social skills? This class will address appropriate responses in a variety of social situations, reading "body language," making and keeping friends and much more! Please contact Wendy Spitz at (216) 581-4549 to register or email wspitz@ldaneo.org. Help your child's star shine.
Classes are limited.

Every Tuesday
6 - week session
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

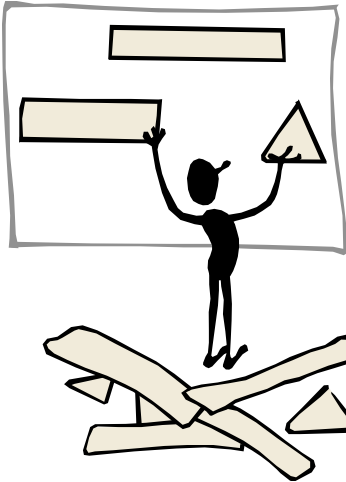
Classes begin
January 20th

LDANEO Members:
\$55
Non-members: \$75

Registration deadline:
January 13, 2009

CALL TODAY!!!
Classes fill up early!

216-581-4549



On July 1, 2008, the revised *Operating Standards for Ohio Educational Agencies serving Children with Disabilities* became effective after input from various stakeholders across Ohio. These state revisions reflect the increased emphasis in the Federal Laws, *No Child Left Behind* and the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004* to provide each child with high quality scientific research-based instruction and interventions. Of particular interest to the members of LDANEO, Ohio's revisions include an expanded section (3301-51-06 (H) regarding the additional procedures for identifying children with specific learning disabilities. Highlights found within the revised standards relating to these additional identification processes will be summarized below.

The definition of "Specific Learning Disability" (SLD) (3301-51-01 (b)(10)(d)(x) remains the same under the revised Standards.

An important change adopted by Ohio in its Operating Standards is that districts are no longer *required* to use the severe discrepancy model between intellectual ability and achievement as the *sole* method for determining when a child has an SLD. Districts are now also permitted to use a process based on the child's response to scientific research-based intervention (RTI) or other alternative research-based procedures. RTI is an array of procedures that can be used to determine if and how students respond to specific changes in instruction. RTI provides an improved process and structure for school teams in designing, implementing, and evaluating educational interventions. This process begins when sufficient data (minimally in the areas of reading and/or math) have been gathered by a group of qualified professionals, including the parent, and analyzed under conditions of targeted and intensive individualized intervention conditions. These interventions are provided at appropriate levels of intensity, frequency, duration, and integrity relative to the child's identified needs. Data demonstrates that, prior to, or as a part of the referral process;

- a. the child was provided with appropriate state approved grade level instruction in regular education settings by qualified personnel;
- b. there is evidence of inadequate responses to interventions (as described above) on the part of the child, and;
- c. the child's needs are unlikely to be met without certain specialized instruction in addition to the regular classroom instruction.

Additionally, the district must ensure that the child is observed in his/her learning environment, including the regular classroom setting, to document his/her academic performance and behavior in the areas of difficulty.

Finally, the district may not use interventions to delay unnecessarily a child's being evaluated to determine eligibility for special education services. If such interventions have not been implemented prior to referral for evaluation, appropriate interventions should be implemented during the same sixty-day time frame during which the school district conducts a full and individual evaluation.

Because additional processes are now permitted, determining the existence of a SLD (H) (3) has also expanded to include the use of the response to intervention (RTI) data described above.

For the complete set of revisions, please refer to 3301-51-06 (H) (1-5) of the revised *Operating Standards for Ohio Educational Agencies serving Children with Disabilities*.

WHAT TO KEEP YOUR EYES ON



LDANEO encourages you to take advantage of our extensive Resource Center and Lending Library. We have informative reading for parents, teachers and community members who are interested in issues related to specific learning disabilities. Our Resource Center is available to our members free of charge. To learn about our holdings, please contact Lorinda Kilbane by emailing her at lkilbane@ldaneo.org or call (216) 581-4549 for more information.

My Thirteenth Winter. Samantha Abeel. Orchard Books, NY. 2003.

Samantha Abeel tells her own story of living with and overcoming dyscalculia. She describes in painstaking detail how her life was affected by her learning disability before and after she was diagnosed, and the way her peers, her family, and her teachers treated her. In seventh grade, Samantha suffered anxiety attacks as she struggled to keep up in her classes, to remember two locker combinations, and to deal with new teachers. Samantha was eventually placed in Special Education classes in eighth grade, but she continued to feel anxious about her future.

Hey, Dummy! Lonnie Clinkscale. Clinkscale Publications and Productions, Inc. Ohio 1994.

Lonnie stands at the chalkboard. The teacher has written $2+2=$, and now she waits. The other children begin to whisper and giggle. Lonnie, fingers clenched around the chalk, slowly writes the number 5, and the classroom erupts in laughter. As Lonnie returns to his seat at the back of the room, one girl smirks and yells, "Hey, dummy!" As a child he suffered from severe stuttering and had trouble solving basic math problems. This book is a personal testimony on how Lonnie Clinkscale overcame his learning disabilities.

A Special Education. Dana Buchman. Da Capo Press. Cambridge, MA 2006.

A riveting and intensely personal memoir, *A Special Education* reveals the long and arduous process of Charlotte's development as well as Buchman's own path to self-discovery. Confessing frequent anxiety, guilt, frustration, and anger, Buchman describes the difficult search to find the right school and care for Charlotte and the strain the process put on her marriage and family life. In addition, Buchman tells of her own struggles with excessive drinking and "workaholic-ism" and of finally letting go of her drive to be "perfect." A moving mother-daughter story, *A Special Education* is an inspiring account of one mother's journey to acceptance and understanding as well as a family's triumph over daunting circumstances.

EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES



LEAP (Linking Employment, Abilities & Potential)

1468 W. 25th St.
Cleveland, OH 44113
216-696-2716 www.leapinfo.org

LEAP Community Employment Program assists people with all types of disabilities in finding jobs matching their abilities, skills and interests.

EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION

1020 Bolivar Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
216-664-4673 www.city.cleveland.oh.us

Employment Connection offices have staff and services available to help you in your pursuit of employment, whether you are currently unemployed or you already have a job and want to change fields or income levels.

BVR (Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation)

14650 Detroit Ave., Suite 300
Lakewood, OH 44107-4210
216-227-3250
www.rsc.ohio.gov

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission is the state agency that helps people with disabilities get and keep jobs.



ARE YOU A CARD-CARRYING MEMBER?

Membership has its benefits!



We rely on the generous support of our members to continue to serve individuals with SLD. **If you are not already a member, your annual membership of \$45* can make a big difference in their lives.** We also welcome any additional contributions you might consider.

*Basic Membership to LDANEO offers you:

- Information about Specific Learning Disabilities
- The LDANEO Quarterly Newsletter
- Access to Lending Library of books, DVDs, educational journals and more
- Assistance in obtaining services from other agencies including the *Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation*
- Information regarding Community Services
- Membership in LDA of Ohio and LDA of America, which includes their publications and conference discounts



Friend Membership to LDANEO:

With a donation of \$100 or more, in addition to the above, you receive:

- 10% Discount to Joseph-Beth Booksellers at Legacy Village (Some restrictions apply)
- One time offer/discount coupon to ANY Holcomb's Knowplace location!

Contributor Membership to LDANEO:

With a donation of \$250 or more, in addition to the above, you receive:

- Free attendance to one class or service provided by LDANEO (Completely transferable!)



We want to count YOU as
a valued member of
LDANEO!



Name: (print) _____ Phone Number: _____

Street Address: _____ Email: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Payment Method: MC Visa Discover American Express Check #: _____

Account #: _____ Amount: _____

3 or 4 digit Security Code (back of card): _____ Expiration date: ____/____ (month & year)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Membership level: _____

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO HELPING KIDS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Working with family members:

- Remind family members gently and often that your child has a real disorder, which makes it difficult for him to manage social situations and regulate his own behavior.
- Explain that you have expectations for your child's behavior but he can't always be held to the same standards as other kids are.
- Recommend articles to relatives and invite them to ask you questions and express their concerns about your child's difficulties.
- Accept the fact that some relatives will come to appreciate and support your child's struggle, but others may not.

Working with your child:

- Help your child learn not to assume responsibility (or blame himself) for the behavior of other people.
- Teach your child the value of performing helpful tasks at family functions. Having a "job" will make your child feel involved, useful, and busy! As he gets older, encourage him to volunteer his help to whoever is hosting the event.

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TEAM READ A BOOK IS COMING AGAIN IN APRIL!
 Fairview Park Library 21255 Lorain Road --Wednesdays in April--
 Maple Heights Library 5225 Library Lane --Thursdays in April--
 For more information, log onto www.cuyahogalibrary.org.

LDANEO MEMBERSHIP

We thank the following new or renewed members who have joined since our Fall 2008 newsletter. Your generosity supports our mission to empower those with Specific Learning Disabilities reach their potential and achieve their goals.

Thank You

Contributor's Gift - LDANEO \$250
Les & Judy Fishman

Thank You

Friends of LDANEO \$100
Ellen S. Fishman Robert & Susan Prior



LDANEO Basic \$45



Courtney Baker	Paula Binder	Paul Colton	Cassandra Crawford
Constance Ewazen	Susan Gustavson	Saundra Jordan	Paula Pikus
Lou Salza	Ralph Stawicki, Sr.	Deborah Marsh Stratis	Jan Thrope
Cynthia Tripoulas	Tracey Turnbull	Deborah Van Kleef	



SAVE-THE-DATE!

2009 5TH ANNUAL
*GREAT MINDS DON'T
LEARN ALIKE... GALA*



—Honoring—

Albert T. Adams, Partner, Baker & Hostetler LLP

&

Arthur Karas, President & CEO of C& K Industrial Services, Inc.

MARCH 6, 2009 at The historical Huntington National Bank
Building, downtown.

Parents and Teachers Together

A Unique Learning Opportunity

The Learning Disabilities Association of Northeast Ohio is offering a unique opportunity for Parents and Teachers to learn about Specific Learning Disabilities. The sessions will give parents and teachers an increased understanding of SLD, special education laws, evaluations, and IEPs.



SESSION TOPICS:

- The nature of Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD)
- An in-depth look at the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504
- The Evaluation Process: Identification of the Disability
- The Nuts and Bolts of Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
- Strategies for Parents and Teachers.

Ten Professional Development contact hours will be offered through State Support Team Region 3.

Registration deadline:

February 19, 2009

-5 Sessions-
Classes fill up early!

CALL TODAY!!!

216-581-4549

LOCATION, DATES & FEES: LDANEO OFFICE, 4800 East 131st Street, Suite B, Garfield Hts.

Every Tuesday and Thursday
February 24, 26 & March 3, 5, 10
6:30p - 8:30p
Members: \$15 Non-Members: \$25



Learning Disabilities Association
of Northeast Ohio

DATED MATERIAL

Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, Ohio
Permit No. 2324

4800 E. 131st Street, Suite B
Garfield Heights, OH 44105



If you have not
received your
newsletter via
email, call us at
216-581-4549.

*Thank you for promoting our
efforts in Going Green!*

We at LDANEEO are extremely grateful to the following
Foundations:

The Cleveland
Foundation



The Learning
Disabilities Foundation
of America

LDANEEO SPEAKERS

If you or someone you know is interested in having the LDANEEO professional staff speak about Specific Learning Disabilities and the services we provide to the community, please call our office at 216-581-4549.



The Learning Disabilities Association of Northeast Ohio empowers those with Specific Learning Disabilities to realize their potential and achieve their goals. In order to accomplish our mission: We FACILITATE relationships for people affected by SLD with organizations that can provide them services. We EDUCATE individuals, families, professionals and the public about SLD. We COLLABORATE with organizations, professionals and others to increase programs, services and awareness of SLD. LDANEEO is a local chapter Affiliate of LDA of Ohio and LDA of America. The Learning Disabilities Association of Northeast Ohio does not endorse any product, system or service (outside of our own) publicized in this newsletter.

Log on to: www.ldaneeo.org * (216) 581-4549