



PEIRCE CENTER

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RMU TREES NETWORK

by: Dr. Vicki Donne

The Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust, honoring their late son Joe, graciously funds the RMU Trees Network. The RMU Trees Network is a center that provides services and training to enhance the support for children and adolescents with intellectual disabilities and their families. We partner with many other groups and agencies, including the Peirce Center. As part of our outreach to families, we host a parent support group on the first Monday of the month, hold individual consultation meetings, and provide resources. These have been important services during COVID. While many schools offered remote or hybrid services, our parents reported that their children were not able to independently engage in this form of instruction and needed 1:1 support. As a result, many children's skills regressed and only 13% of parents reported that their child was offered compensatory services.

The RMU Trees Network provides training for college students studying to become teachers, special educators working in the schools, and parents. We hold a yearly special education conference in the fall with both local and national speakers. We also hold several workshops throughout the year. Our next workshop will be on Monday, December 5th from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. Consultants from the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) will be providing an informative session for parents and teachers on Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS). The schools have a variety of approaches to address behaviors and the terminology can be confusing. Come and learn about CPS and how it compares to ABA, BIP, and FBA. To register, contact Vicki Donne at donne@rmu.edu or Deanna Hiltz at hiltzd@rmu.edu, 412-397-5465, or register at <https://forms.gle/3NDCx31krTpGo7r89>.

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For more information, visit:

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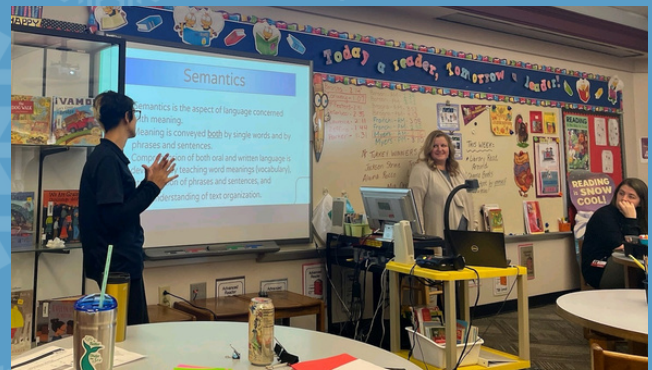
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RMU TREES NETWORK (CONT'D)

We also provide direct services to students through tutoring in the schools, providing online resources and a book club. The Trees Network will be hosting a book club for students and their families beginning January 17th and meeting virtually every Tuesday from 6-7 pm until March 7th. We will be reading the book Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling. Students who register by December 20th will receive a free copy of the book. Online text read alouds will be available through YouTube.

To register, contact hiltzd@rmu.edu or complete the registration form at <https://forms.gle/ZxLzUT9nByct9zaU8>.

These are just a few of the services that the network provides to families and educators of children with intellectual disabilities. For more information, go to <https://www.rmu.edu/academics/provost/trees> or follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/RMUtrees/>.



(Pictured Right: Ashley Messner and Lori Zorn present about Structured Literacy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 1: Morphology 101 Webinar @ edWeb
- December 6: The Science of Reading Webinar @ edWeb
- December 7: Wilson Game Night Family Event at Provident Charter
- December 12: Overhauling Fieldwork to Improve Pre-Service Teaching Training Webinar (PATTAN Training)
- December 13: Sound Walls Webinar @edWeb

For more information, visit:

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WINTER LETTER FORMATION ACTIVITIES

by: Ashley Messner

For children who reverse their letters, it is important to allow them opportunities to form letters, using multisensory methods. Letter reversals are common in the early stages of writing and may be linked to dyslexia, working or visual memory deficits, or visual discrimination difficulties. Here are some winter activities to practice letter formation:

Snow Letters: In the snow, have your child trace letters or use a shovel to dig out the shape of the letter.

Letter Baking:

- Using clean hands, trace letters into ingredients such as flour or sugar.
- Using clean hands, build letters out of larger ingredients such as chocolate chips, raisins, or M&Ms.
- Shape cookie dough into the shape of letters.
- Using icing or sprinkles, decorate cookies with the shapes of letters.

While completing these activities, always have the child say both the name of the letter and its associated sound.

Remember, repetition and patience is the key in mastering any literacy skill!



LETTER REVERSAL RESOURCES

- [Why Kids Write Letters Backwards? \(Video\)](#)
- [Free Letter Reversal Activities \(Video\)](#)
- [Multisensory Therapy in Letter Reversal of Dyslexic Pupils \(Scholarly Article\)](#)
- [Multisensory Strategies for B and D Reversals](#)
- [B and D Letter Reversals Workbook](#)
- [B, D, P, and Q Letter Identification Online Game](#)

BOOK OF THE MONTH

