



**Together We Make A Difference**  
**2008 Michigan POHI / SXI Conference**

[www.MichiganPOHISXI.org](http://www.MichiganPOHISXI.org)

Join Us in Downtown Lansing  
Sunday, November 9 through Tuesday, November 11, 2008

**Professional Development Conference for  
Educators, Therapists and Parents**

**Radisson Hotel Lansing**  
111 N. Grand Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

# Together We Make a Difference

Sunday, November 9, 2008

12:00 – 2:00 pm     **Registration**

2:00 – 5:00 pm     **Featured Speaker**  
**Medical Updates: News You Can Use**  
**Dr. Eileen Donovan, M.D., P.T.**  
Medical Director  
Detroit Institute for Children

Dr. Donovan started her career as a physical therapist, working in clinical settings and POHI programs before becoming a doctor. She will present news from the world of medicine – new drug treatments and new therapy treatments. New trends in rehabilitation, including Botox injections, intrathecal baclofen pumps, conductive education, and suit therapy will be discussed. There will be time for questions and answers after the presentation.

3:15 – 3:30 pm     **Break**

3:30 – 5:00 pm     **Presentation Resumes**

Dine at the hotel or in downtown Lansing. Information is available at the Events table. There will be a variety of suggestions for enjoying nearby restaurants.

Monday, November 10 Morning

7:30 – 8:30 **Continental Breakfast  
Registration**

8:25 **Welcome**  
**Ron Zapinski**, Chairperson

8:30 – 12:00 **Brain Gym**  
Session A **Lucy French**, P.T., M.Ed.  
**Nancy Kelly**, M.A., O.T.  
Wayne-Westland Community School District

Brain Gym is a trademarked program for enhancing learning through the brain body connection. The premise is that movement is an effective way to develop the brain. Whole brain functioning leads to improved academic and personal performance and overall well-being. This presentation will demonstrate Brain Gym movements and adaptations for special education populations.

8:30 – 10:00 **Beginning Literacy Framework**  
Session B **Kevin Johnston**  
Don Johnston Incorporated  
Volo, Illinois

This framework for literacy instruction targets school-aged students with the most severe multiple disabilities. Roughly 90% of these students never learn to read above the second grade level. This session will examine the research base for turning non-reading students into conventional readers. In addition, strategies and activities to monitor literacy growth will be emphasized.

8:30 - 10:00 **Personal Curriculum for  
Students with IEP's**  
Session C **Michelle Quarton**  
Oakland Schools

The Michigan Merit Curriculum requires that all students earn credits in the Core Curriculum in order to graduate from high school. The law allows certain modifications of these credits and/or expectations through the development of a personal curriculum. This session offers an overview of the law, the process itself, and forms used in developing a personal curriculum for students with an IEP.

*Session will be repeated in the afternoon.*

Monday, November 10 Morning (Continued)

10:00 – 10:30 **Break**

10:30 – 12:00 **Brain Gym**

Session A **Lucy French**, R.P.T., M.Ed.  
**Nancy Kelly**, O.T.

*Session A Resumes*

Brain Gym is a trademarked program for enhancing learning through the brain body connection. The premise is that movement is an effective way to develop the brain. Whole brain functioning leads to improved academic and personal performance and overall well-being. This presentation will demonstrate Brain Gym movements and adaptations for special education populations.

10:30 – 12:00 **Using the EuroPeds Method**

Session D **Melissa McGinnis**  
EuroPeds  
Pontiac, Michigan

EuroPeds is a method of intense physical therapy for handicapped children using techniques developed in Poland and now practiced for years here in Michigan. Children receive therapy in a team approach to maximize their mobility, endurance and movement.

10:30 – 12:00

Session E

**Traumatic Brain Injury:  
The Science and Significance**

**Joe Richert II**

Special Tree Rehabilitation System  
Romulus, Michigan

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, children and adolescents are at the highest risk for sustaining traumatic brain injury. Unfortunately, traumatic brain injury remains a low incidence disability in our student age population. As a result, educators and school personnel continue to encounter the challenging needs presented by these students with complex neurological deficits.

12:00 – 1:00

**LUNCH**

**VISIT the EXHIBIT AREA**

Monday, November 10 Afternoon

1:00 – 2:30

Session F

**Research-based Literacy  
Curriculum for Students with  
Significant Disabilities**

(Vendor session)

**Kevin Johnston**

Don Johnston Incorporated  
Volo, Illinois

Learn about a new literacy curriculum program designed and researched by Dr. Karen Erickson of the Literacy and Disability Studies Center at the University of North Carolina, AbleNet Incorporated, and Don Johnston Incorporated. Using this literacy curriculum program through a sequence of 40 lessons has shown the following results: students improved their concepts about print by 50%, writing by 29% and phonological awareness by 32%. Examples of these lessons will be demonstrated.

1:00 – 2:30

Session G

**Critical Issues in Traumatic Brain  
Injury: The Transition Perspective**

**Joe Richert II**

Special Tree Rehabilitation  
Romulus, Michigan

Brain injury is a developing disability, and as children and adolescents go through the various developmental stages in life, it is imperative that they transition successfully. TBI students moving from hospital to home and school (classes, semester changes, extracurricular activities and total reintegration) face many challenges. Rehabilitation and education must team together to focus on building students' skills to ensure academic success.

2:30 – 3:00

**BREAK & VENDORS**

Monday, November 10 Afternoon (Continued)

3:00 – 4:30

Session H

**‘A Goal Without a Plan Is Just a Wish’ – Using Person Centered Planning for Students with Low Incidence Disabilities**

**Beth Kennedy**, M.Ed., QA III

Director of Deaf \ Blind Central

**Nicole Bruce**, MA

Family Support Coordinator

Deaf\Blind Central

Central Michigan University

The focus will be the use of person centered planning to improve post secondary outcomes for students with low incidence disabilities. This session will provide outcome data and child/family case studies and give participants an overview of how to use the information gleaned from this process. This organization has resources to aid students and families to maximize student potential.

3:00 – 4:30

Session I

**Personal Curriculum for Students with IEP’s**

**Michelle Quarton**

Oakland Schools

*Repeat Session*

The Michigan Merit Curriculum requires that all students earn credits in the Core Curriculum in order to graduate from high school. The law allows certain modifications of these credits and/or expectations through the development of a personal curriculum. This session offers an overview of the law, the process itself, and forms used in developing a personal curriculum for students with an IEP.

4:30 – 5:30

**Networking**

Session J

**Elementary & Middle School**

Session K

**High School & Post High**

Tuesday, November 11 Morning

8:30 – 11:30 **Working with Students of Poverty: The Ruby Payne Model**  
Session L **Kathy Kropf**  
Homeless Education Liaison  
Macomb Intermediate School District Macomb

This session is a must for working with economically disadvantaged students. There will be an overview of:

- Dr. Ruby Payne's key points and definitions
- hidden rules of economic class
- assessing student resources
- building relationships of mutual respect
- discipline strategies that teach choices
- behavioral interventions that work
- working with parents
- connecting with community resources

8:30 – 11:30 **Making Adaptations to Make It Work – Ideas for Classroom Management**  
Session M **Sue Srebnik**, Teacher  
Pied Piper Opportunity Center  
Alpena, Michigan

This workshop will introduce and demonstrate low-tech/no tech ideas for making the classroom more functional. Ideas and materials make teaching activities more fun and work more smoothly. The paperwork aspect of classroom management, including documentation of IEP objectives, will be presented. Participants will become more proficient in this aspect of teaching to measurable objectives.

*Session will be repeated in the afternoon.*

11:30 – 12:30 **LUNCH**

Tuesday, November 11 Afternoon

12:30 – 3:30

Session N

**Out of the Building NOW!  
Creating Effective Evacuation  
Plans and Using Evacuation Chairs**

**Marquita Andion & Tom Hildebrandt**

Teacher Consultants for POHI

Oakland Schools

**Deb Therriault**, Teacher for POHI

Clarkston School District

This session will discuss the components of writing comprehensive evacuation plans for students who are wheelchair users attending schools with multiple levels. Included in the discussion will be the formation of effective evacuation teams for every school term. Contact with local fire departments and acquiring evacuation chairs meeting certain standards will be reviewed.

An evacuation chair demonstration will be included.

12:30 – 3:30

Session O

**Making Adaptations to Make It  
Work: Ideas for Classroom  
Management**

**Sue Srebnik**, Teacher

Pied Piper Opportunity Center

Alpena, Michigan

*Repeat Session*

This workshop will introduce and demonstrate low-tech/no tech ideas for making the classroom more functional. Ideas and materials make teaching activities more fun and work more smoothly. The paperwork aspect of classroom management, including documentation of IEP objectives, will be presented. Participants will become more proficient in this aspect of teaching to measurable objectives.

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[www.radisson.com/lansingmi](http://www.radisson.com/lansingmi)

