



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2013-031

TO: School District Superintendents
Special Education Directors
Related Service Providers
Special Education Teachers

FROM: Joanne Whitson, WY Deaf-Blind Project

DATE: March 18, 2013

SUBJECT: Regional Conference on Sensory Disabilities

INFORMATION TO SHARE

The Western Regional Early Intervention Conference on Sensory Disabilities will be held at the Snow King Resort, June 19-21 in Jackson, Wyo.

The conference is sponsored by the Wyoming Department of Education in collaboration with the Western Regional Dual Sensory Administrators and Northern Rockies AER Conference. The three-day event is geared towards offering assessments and strategies for those with sensory loss from birth through life.

The pre-conference programs include a presentation by Dr. Jan van Dijk and Dr. Cathy Nelson who will present on new research on brain development and child-guided strategies utilizing the Dr. van Dijk Approach for students who are sensory impaired. Dr. Charles Berlin will bring his skill for diagnosing rare hearing problems in children and identifying genes that cause deafness to the pre-conference session. His presentation is called, "Normal audiograms don't always mean normal hearing."

Millie Smith and Christine Yoshinaga-Itano will offer the keynote addresses for the event. Smith will discuss bio-behavioral states for those with disabilities, while Yoshinaga-Itano will present her research on children who have multiple involvements. In addition to the keynotes there are 17 other scheduled breakout sessions slated. The breakout sessions will cover everything from

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Yoga and movement for individuals with visual implants to addressing the educational needs of young children with shaken baby syndrome.

Cost to attend the conference is \$125 per person with a full day of pre-conference programs available for another \$35.

This regional event, which is offered every two years, attracts nearly 250 attendees. Interested parties are encouraged to register early. To register for the event, go to wde.memberlodge.com. For more information, contact Joanne Whitson at joanne.whitson@wyo.gov or 307-352-5333.