



Fluency Friday Plus-2009!

A Journey to Change!!!

Fluency Friday Plus 2009 was held at St. Peter & Paul Elementary School in Reading, Ohio on November 7th and the morning of November 8th. The 2009 version of FFP included **65** children and teens who stutter along with approximately **50** parents and **13** siblings. Several professional speech language pathologists (**20**) from the Greater Cincinnati area supervised and mentored graduate clinicians from the University of Cincinnati and Bowling Green State University. The graduate clinicians provided the treatment for the children/teens who stutter. Board Recognized Specialists – Fluency Disorders assisted in the implementation of the program including Donna Cooperman, Nina Reeves, Rod Gabel, Irving Wollman and Diane Games. In addition, several volunteers assisted with registration and lunch activities.

Again this year, FFP hosted a display/event from *Usborne Books* and every child/teen who participated in FFP received a book at the end of the Saturday session. Individual and Group treatment sessions were scheduled during the day and one-half program. The conversational breakfast was held on Saturday and included role playing, making telephone calls, speaking to the group on the open microphone, and visiting several talking stations. Students earned raffle tickets for achieving targeted goals and participating in various activities. A FFP tradition has been the Closing Ceremony where skits, developed by attendees, were performed. The Teen Group also spoke to the parents and to the “younger” kids who stutter. During these sessions, the teens provided advice and ideas for the younger students. Adults who stutter also attended on Saturday morning to speak to the parents about their experiences with stuttering.

The FFP web page www.fluencyfriday.org facilitated registration and provided materials for the community SLP's and graduate students. This web site was developed with grants from the Ohio Speech Language & Hearing

Association and the Southwestern Ohio Speech Language and Hearing Association. This web page continues to be expanded and maintained through donations. The site is revised and updated as an ongoing educational tool for graduate students and for community speech language pathologists. In addition, Rod Gabel and Diane Games developed a section on stuttering on the OMNIE web page to further train speech pathologists training to serve students who stutter in the educational setting.

The theme for FFP 2009, **A Journey to Change!**, was utilized in age appropriate treatment booklets designed by college student, Tyler Schmidlin. The workbooks contained goal planning, rating scales, and several activities designed to facilitate treatment and manage stuttering. The workbooks and other diagnostic and treatment materials are also available on the FFP web site: www.fluencyfriday.org.

Another new project this year is the development of a video to provide an overview of the FFP program! This video will provide an overview of the FFP for training and promotion of the FFP program.

The FFP planning committee would like to thank Ohio Speech Language & Hearing Association and our local association, Southwestern Ohio Speech Language & Hearing Association for continued support of the FFP project. Additional funding from a private donor this year has provided financial support for the ongoing development of the FFP web site and program outreach into lower income areas of Cincinnati. In addition, the FFP program continues to receive recognition as a training tool for graduate clinicians.

As usual, with a program like this, there are many people who need to be thanked...from the many professionals who donate their time to the people who volunteer just because they support the program....watch out for announcements for the 2010 version of FFP on the first Friday and Saturday morning in November!!!

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