



Fluency Friday Plus-2008!

Believe in Yourself!!!

Fluency Friday Plus 2008 was held at Community Christian Church in Fairfield, Ohio on November 7th and the morning of November 8th. The 2008 version of FFP included **65** children and teens who stutter along with approximately **50** parents and **13** siblings. Several professional speech language pathologists (**15**) attended this year as observers for more exposure to treatment of children/teens who stutter. In addition, **27** speech language pathologists served as supervisors to mentor the graduate clinicians. Board Recognized specialist assisted in the implementation of the program. These included Donna Cooperman, Nina Reardon-Reeves, and Rod Gabel. Irving Wollman and Diane Games worked with the graduate clinicians from the University of Cincinnati and Miami University. In addition, several volunteers assisted with registration and lunch activities.

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. Another special event was the appearance of **Madcap Puppets**, a travelling puppetry group who performed a magical show to reflect the FFP theme: **Believe in Yourself!** Following the show, the students made hand puppets which were used in the Friday closing ceremony.

Individual and Group treatment sessions were scheduled during the 2008 day and one-half program. The conversational breakfast was held on Saturday and included role playing, making telephone calls, speaking at an 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 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 monies from previous Ohio Speech Language & Hearing Association grants and continues to be expanded and maintained by the state association grant program. The site is revised and updated as an ongoing educational tool for graduate students and for community speech language pathologists.

The theme, **Believe in Yourself!**, was utilized in age appropriate treatment booklets designed by Patricia Fisher. 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 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 cause....watch out for announcements of the 2009 version.. the first Friday and Saturday morning in November!!!