

Developmental Disabilities Research-Validated Library Collection

This collection of library materials, housed at the Leominster Public Library, contains information about research-based approaches to assist children and adults with developmental disabilities. This collection is intended to meet the diverse information needs of families, educators, and others in the community in a user-friendly way. Susan Shelton, Executive Director of the Leominster Public Library, has graciously agreed to house and maintain this collection at the library. A web page (www.leominsterlibrary.org/developmental_disabilities_research.htm) listing the contents of the collection has been developed by the library. The materials are available through interlibrary loan to parents and professionals in the North Central Area and throughout the state.

The goals of the collection are to:

1) institutionalize access to information about effective practices for families and professionals; 2) develop and strengthen partnerships between families, special education staff, researchers, staff in child-serving

agencies, and other professionals; and 3) have a collection which meets the information needs of those from diverse cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Although families and others in the

region and the state will have access to this collection, this service is designed to meet the needs of families, educators, and others in the North Central Area. This collection was funded by the school districts of the North Central Area of Massachusetts and the North Central Area Office of the Department of Mental Retardation.

May Institute and staff of the North Central Area of the Department of Mental Retardation developed a process to select books and manuscripts that both 1) ensured that families' and professionals' information needs were addressed and 2) resulted in the selection of materials that were evidenced-based in these areas. A survey was constructed by a committee consisting of Drs. Jennifer Mautone, Amy

McGeorge, and Dannell Roberts of May Institute under the direction of Dr. Robert Putnam, Senior Vice President of Consultation, with assistance from the following staff of the North Central Area



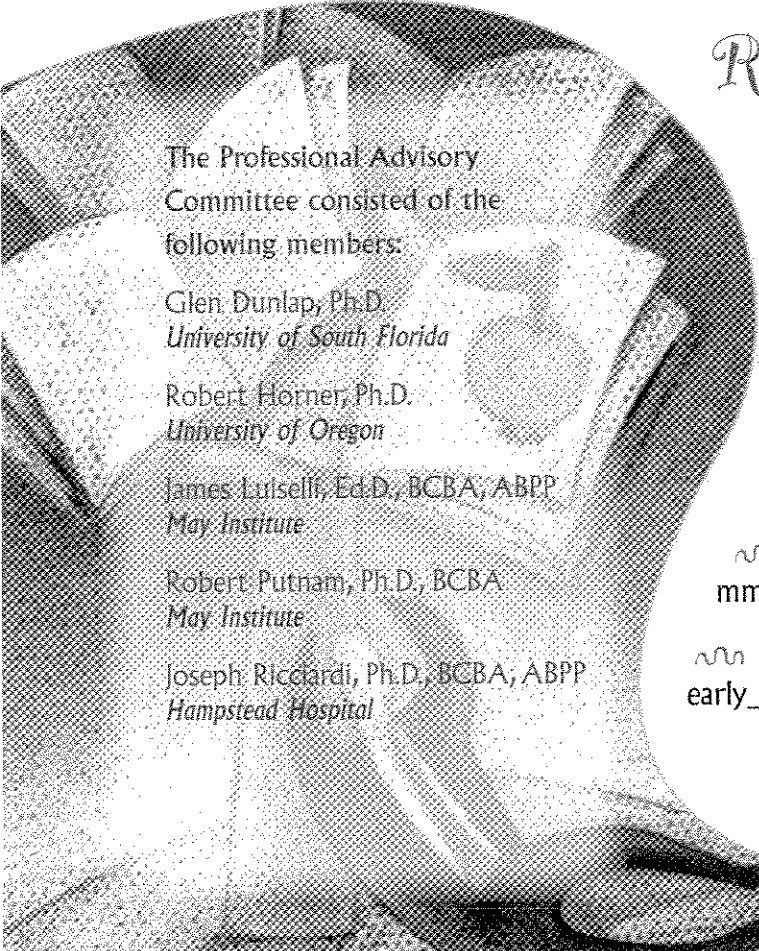
This collection was developed through a partnership of the following agencies and organizations:

- North Central Office of the MA Department of Mental Retardation
- May Institute and other professionals in the field of developmental disabilities
- Beach Center on Disability, University of Kansas
- School districts of the North Central Massachusetts Area
- Leominster Public Library

Office of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation: Donna Boucher, Area Director; Barbara Larkin, Supervisor; and Jo Anne Bayliss, Child Service Coordinator. Over 500 copies of this survey were distributed by North Central Area staff to local families and professional staff. Over 150 surveys were returned and results were tabulated to determine the areas of most interest. Books were selected in these areas by the above subcommittee and were reviewed by a Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) comprised of professionals in the field. The PAC members had to: 1) be active in conducting applied research in the field of developmental disabilities; 2) be active in disseminating literature in the field of developmental disabilities; 3) have knowledge of the contemporary literature in this field; and 4) have extensive experience as clinicians or educators with children or adults with developmental disabilities.

All of the work involved in this process was provided on a pro bono basis. Additional selections to the library collection will be suggested by the Professional Advisory Committee on an ongoing basis in the future to both update the collection and ensure that the current library collection meets the needs of North Central Area families and professionals. May Institute has agreed to convene the Professional Advisory Committee on an ongoing basis to support the continued development of the collection.

In addition, the Beach Center on Disability at the University of Kansas will also provide support to the collection on an ongoing basis. The Beach Center has already linked over 100 validated articles which have been converted to a family-friendly format. These articles can be accessed directly through the collection's website.



The Professional Advisory Committee consisted of the following members:

Glen Dunlap, Ph.D.
University of South Florida

Robert Horner, Ph.D.
University of Oregon

James Luiselli, Ed.D., BCBA, ABPP
May Institute

Robert Putnam, Ph.D., BCBA
May Institute

Joseph Ricciardi, Ph.D., BCBA, ABPP
Hampstead Hospital

Related Websites

~ www.pbis.org

~ www.bacb.com

~ www.mayinstitute.org

~ www.nationalautismcenter.org

~ www.nih.gov

~ <http://www.asatonline.org/resources/resources.htm>

~ www.cdc.gov/nip/vacsafe/concerns/autism/autism-mmr.htm

~ www.health.state.ny.us/community/infants_children/early_intervention/autism