



The Insider

Life Span Institute at Parsons

July 2010

Patty Black Moore, Editor

KU Works for Kansas and so does SEKRS!

Southeast Kansas Respite Services (SEKRS) Inc. celebrates 20 years of service to thousands of families in eleven southeast Kansas counties and is highlighted in the KU Works for Kansas 2010 publication available online at <http://kuworks.ku.edu/page9.shtml>

The hallmark of Respite Services is that qualified, skilled care providers go into the home to give caregivers a break or “respite” from their fulltime tasks of caring for loved ones of all ages who have health conditions or special needs. Participating families have the opportunity to identify their own provider or to select from a group of trained providers to ensure that the needs of the family can be best matched with the skills of the respite care provider. SEKRS care providers maintain current CPR and First Aid certifications, provide companionship and friendship, prepare and serve meals, provide appropriate physical assistance as needed, as well as other tasks and responsibilities to assure the safety and well being of the person in their care.

Families say: “I just want to say that this service has been a tremendous blessing to our family. The care providers are wonderful. My daughter likes them and is always pleased to know one of them is coming.” “No one can imagine just how much we care when someone, somewhere offers a helping hand.” “I feel like the Respite Program and all involved in it go out of their way to meet my family’s needs.”

Last year, 215 families counted on Southeast Kansas Respite Services and received 23,640



Diane Salyers, SEKRS coordinator (right), talks with Lavina Kelley and her grandson Nathan about respite services.

hours of respite from the care required by a loved one with special needs. (data current 7/13/2010)

Diane Salyers, SEKRS coordinator says, “Respite services are so unique because they target the caregiver. A caregiver’s job is not easy.

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“Just the STATS”

Sara Sack, Inclusive Community Garden Project director, reports that one of the five participating gardens focusing on accessible gardening practices statewide, the Parsons Community Garden established in April 2010, now has 89 gardeners with 187 plots and 20 containers planted.



SPOTLIGHT on RESEARCH

Kathleen “Kat” Stremel Thomas, M.A.

Project Director: Influencing Outcomes for Children Who Are Deaf-Blind with Cochlear Implants project, The Teaching



Research Institute at Western Oregon University. Kat lives in Parsons,

Kansas with an office at the Life Span Institute at Parsons and a courtesy appointment with the University of Kansas.

Data Collection Revolution

How LENA Pro Helped Me Streamline My Research Strategy for a Cochlear Implant Study

Great advancements in technology can transform the lives of young children. One such innovation is the cochlear implant. Over the past five years, it has become increasingly common for children who are not just deaf but deaf-blind to receive implants. For children with no or minimal auditory and visual perception, the implants have the potential to facilitate learning and increase independence.

In 2005 my colleagues at the Teaching Research Institute and University of Kansas and I received a grant to determine outcomes and predictive variables for these kids. To collect assessment data, we spent time in homes and schools where

we observed many parents and teachers who did not seem to increase their amount of speech to the children with the new implants. It was common, for instance, to observe a parent or teacher feed a child but not say more than five words in the process.

We started wondering how the implant would benefit the child if the child heard very little speech. To find out, we wrote another grant to look at the quality and quantity of parent talk before and after cochlear implantation and to develop intervention strategies to help influence outcomes. Our plan was to videotape the children and their caregivers in their natural environments to determine the amount of parent talk.

Around the time the grant¹ was funded, in 2008, I was invited to visit a LENA (Language ENvironment Analysis) Foundation exhibit at an early childhood conference. On the morning of the conference, I decided to attend a poster session. As it turned out, the session featured Dr.

Charles Greenwood, who displayed child outcome data he had obtained with the LENA System. I had a feeling that something in the universe was trying to tell me something.

After all, the logistics of our data collection plan presented some challenges. Once the children are eligible and approved for an implant, many are scheduled for the surgery to be performed very quickly; there is often a short turnaround time, sometimes within 10 days. I realized that it was likely that there wouldn't be enough time to purchase a reasonably priced airline ticket and fly out to do the actual videotaping before each surgery.

That's when I had an epiphany. Instead of flying around the country videotaping children, we could simply send out LENA Clothing and the LENA Digital Language Processor (DLP) to the parents, collect data across a child's waking hours, and look at the child's audio environment and amount of speech directed to the child. I went from the presentation to the LENA booth and, after discussing the technology further with LENA representatives, ordered LENA Pro, a number of DLPs, and vests.

After a child is referred to our project, instead of hopping a flight we send the parents a brochure and "LENA letter" and then follow up with them over the phone. If they are interested in using LENA, we overnight them three DLPs and a very cute LENA Clothing item that has a pocket specially designed to hold the DLP. The parents use the DLPs three times during the week, taking notes on their child's routines and activities on each recording day, and then send the materials back. We use LENA Pro to process the data; with the LENA data and the notes, we can see the

number of adult words spoken during key periods, such as lunchtime, playtime, playtime with siblings, or car rides. In addition to adult words, we can observe the number of child vocalizations and adult-child conversational turns; we're also considering using the LENA Advanced Data Extractor (ADEX) tool to assess the quality of adult-child interactions.

Even though we haven't met them face to face, most of the parents are thrilled with the idea of using LENA; they love outfitting their kids in the cute LENA rompers and overalls and, ultimately, receiving the colored graphs depicting their child's language and audio environment. Other parents have shown interest in using LENA to help inform their decision on whether or not to have their child undergo cochlear implant surgery. Some families have even used LENA data to advocate for an FM system in their child's preschool environment.

Currently, 13 families are involved in our research at different phases. We have just sent out post-implant DLPs to three families. Since we are in the early phase of our research, we do not have results at this time. Ultimately, we will use LENA to look at generalization across the entire day.

As pediatric cochlear implantation has improved progress for many children who are deaf-blind, LENA has the potential to improve the lives of young children. Not only can the technology assist in measuring cochlear implantation outcomes, it also has the potential to be used to influence outcomes for many families and their children. As a result, LENA has been a perfect fit for our research and outcome objectives.

¹ The research discussed in this article is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education - Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities (CFDA 84.327A). Grant H327A080045; Opinions expressed within are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the position of the U.S. Department of Education.

Article reprinted with permission from the LENA (Language ENvironment Analysis) Foundation eNewsletter
<http://www.lenafoundation.org/Resources/Newsletter.aspx?PageMethod=ViewNewsletter&newsletterToKen=20100601>

NEW GRANTS AND GRANT RENEWALS

David Lindeman received these new grants and grant renewals for fiscal year 2011.

- Kansas Inservice Training System – new 5 year grant renewal – Kansas State Department of Education
- Kansas Inservice Training System - Infant /Toddler Component – new 1 year grant renewal – Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Early Childhood Partnerships Training and Technical Assistance – 18 month contract – Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Sustained Training for the Kansas Infant/Toddler Networks – 14 month contract – Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Active Treatment Training Program – new 1 year grant renewal – Parsons State Hospital and Kansas Neurological Institute
- Southeast Kansas Respite Care Services – new 1 year contract – Parsons State Hospital
- Coordinated Resource and Support Services – new 1 year contract – SEKRS, Inc.

Kathy Olson received a new 1 year renewal for her project, Kansas College of Direct Support, funded by the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

PUBLICATIONS

- Anderson, C. M., Doughty, S. S., Doughty, A. H., Williams, D. C., & Saunders, K. J. (in press). Evaluation of stimulus control over a communication response as an intervention for stereotypical responding. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*.
- Jarmolowicz, D. P., Hayashi, Y., & St. Peter Pipkin, C. (2010). Temporal patterns of behavior from the scheduling of psychology quizzes. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 43, 297-301.
- Stremel Thomas, K. (2010, June). Data Collection Revolution: How LENA Pro helped me streamline my research strategy for a cochlear implant study. LENA (Language ENvironment Analysis) Foundation newsletter, 27, 1-2.
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PRESENTATIONS

- Castro, D. (2010, June). *Supporting language and literacy development for young English language learners through evidence based instructional practices*. KITS Summer Institute at Lawrence, KS.
- Hayashi, Y., Antonini, J. M., & Wirth, O. (2010, May). *A choice reaction-time procedure for assessing the neurobehavioral effects of drugs and toxicants with rats*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, San Antonio, TX.
- Hayashi, Y., Dickson, C. A., & Perone, M. (2010, May). *Effects of ordinal position of fixed- and variable-ratio schedules on delayed matching-to-sample*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, San Antonio, TX.
- Miksch, P. (2010, May). *Evidence based practice/coaching, natural environments & teaming*. Inservice at Overland Park, KS.
- Miksch, P. (2010, May). *IFSP development/evidence based practice*. Inservice at Parsons, KS.

- Miksch, P. (2010, June). *Family service coordination: Focus on IFSPs*. Statewide training at Wichita, KS.
- Moore, P. (2010, May). *Straw Bale Gardening*. Presentation to the Parsons Community Garden May 27 Meeting, Parsons, KS.
- Moore, S., & Perez-Mendez, C. (2010, June). *Culturally, developmentally, and linguistically appropriate assessment and the use of cultural mediators, interpreters and translators*. KITS Summer Institute at Lawrence, KS.
- Moore, S., & Perez-Mendez, C. (2010, June). *What we know and can do to support young English language learners*. KITS Summer Institute at Lawrence, KS.
- Sack, S., & Moore, P. (2010, June). *Equipment Collection Drives: Will they work for your program?* Presented to the How to Get Equipment for Refurbishing Webinar, Pass It On Center, Atlanta, GA.
- Sanchez, S. (2010, June). *Using family stories to promote culturally and linguistically responsive experiences that support first and second language development*. KITS Summer Institute at Lawrence, KS.
- Schmidt, A. C., Brady, N. C., & Saunders, K. (2010, May). *Instructional programming for generalized sound-print relations: Towards augmentative communication for individuals with low speech intelligibility*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, San Antonio, TX.
- Sherman, M., Brewer, A., Tierney, S., Dozier, C. L., Hayashi, Y., Perone, M., & Williams, D. (2010, May). *A program of translational research in maladaptive behavior: Significance of postreinforcement pause on aberrant behavior*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, San Antonio, TX.
- Sherman, M., Hayashi, Y., & Saunders, K. (2010, May). *Instructional programming for generalized sound-print relations: Consonant clusters*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, San Antonio, TX.
- Simmons, S. (2010, June). *Vertical Gardening*. Presentation to the Parsons Community Garden June 3 Meeting, Parsons, KS.
- Smith, T., Weir, R., Marshbank, D., Shirrell, S., Padgett, M., Bowman, D., Miksch, P. (2010, June). *Part C coordinator's meeting*. Statewide presentation at Salina, KS.
- Stein, M. N., & Saunders, K. (2010, May). *Instructional programming for generalized sound-print relations: Long- and short-vowel word pairs*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, San Antonio, TX.
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PROJECT UPDATE



The Inclusive Community Garden Project held a locally grown potluck for area residents

Sara Sack, project director, welcomed 25 area residents to the 1st Annual Locally Grown Potluck and Recipe Exchange. Attendees enjoyed fruits and vegetables prepared in many delicious ways. Megan Hughes (pictured), local Parsons gardener and former Peace Corps Volunteer in agriculture, offered tips about when to harvest vegetables for maximum nutrition.

STAFF PROFILE

Robin Bayless, M.S. Program Assistant



“Who is Robin Bayless? You know, she’s that lady with all the hats!” That sounds better than “That lady who has breast cancer!”. I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003 with a recurrence in 2008, but it is not who I am!

I lived my entire childhood in Galesburg, Kansas, a small community 12 miles north and west of Parsons. I did my undergraduate work at Labette Community College and Pittsburg State University, receiving a bachelor’s degree in psychology and sociology in 1986. After taking a semester off and discovering that you truly cannot find a job in Southeast Kansas with a bachelor’s degree in either of those fields, I headed to Manhattan where I received my master’s degree in Sociology from Kansas State University. Even with the advanced degree, jobs in SEK were hard to come by so I took what work I could find.

I worked on a survey for the City of Parsons, next as a job placement specialist for Kansas Elks Training Center for the Handicapped in Wichita, and then returned to Parsons to work for the City as a clerk in the water department. That job made me realize I never want to work with the public again! People can be so nasty when they get their water turned off!

However, it was at the City Offices that I was “fixed up” with my husband, so there were some positive results of my employment there! Brad and I married in

1991, had our son, Alex, in 1994, and our daughter, Jamie, in 1999. We have spent our 19 years of marriage raising our children and fixing up our house, piece by piece.

In 1995, I started working for Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS) and they haven’t gotten rid of me yet! My job is to do all the behind the scenes work while the others on the project do training and technical assistance to special educators and early interventionists working with children birth to five. I do the editing and page layout of the KITS Newsletter, technical assistance packets, and handouts for trainings. I also maintain three list serves, make all the arrangements for trainings from booking the facility through copying handouts, help with maintenance of the KITS website, maintain the KITS Collaborative Training Calendar, and compile annual reports. Basically, I try to do whatever needs done.

I enjoy working on the KITS project and love the people here! Even though I work in a sea of KU blue, I like to wear my K-State purple on occasion just to get a reaction from Dr. Dave!

STAFF NEWS

Dave Lindeman, director of the KITS Project, is pleased to welcome Chelie Nelson, Ph.D., technical assistance specialist, as the newest member of the KITS team. Look for more information about her in the September issue.

PROJECT UPDATE

Southeast Kansas Family Care Project



Christine Mosso

Southeast Kansas Family Care Project
Summer Intern Counselor

I am entering my third year as a graduate student in the Department of Behavior Analysis at the University of North Texas. I received my B.S in Behavior Analysis and my B.A in Sociology from the University of North Texas in 2008. I have worked in numerous settings training new skills to children diagnosed with Autism, conducting parent training for

individuals referred by child protective services, writing behavior support plans for adults with developmental disabilities and teaching new staff the basics of Positive Behavior Supports.

I am currently working as an intern here with the Southeast Kansas Family Care Project and will be working with Dr. Katie Hine, Sara Major, Roger Stanley and Peggy Gentry over the next three months. After graduation, I plan to receive my certification in Behavior Analysis, and work with families with children who engage in severe problem behaviors.

The Family Care Project welcomes two new Skills Trainers, Stephanie Camp and Troy Snider.

Skills Trainers do the following when they take (youth) clients out into their communities:

- 1) focus on increasing youth's positive behavior and building a pro-social skills base
- 2) implement the youth's individualized behavior support plans
- 3) provide breaks for parent and youth several times per a week

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Kat Stremel Thomas, Kathy Olson, Sara Sack, and Patty Black Moore, KU employees at the Life Span Institute at Parsons joined other co-sponsors from The City of Parsons, K-State Extension, SEK Recycling and Coca-Cola of Fort Scott in the parking lot of the Parsons Walmart on June 12 for an e-waste collection drive.



Volunteers collected, sorted and loaded this oversized semi-trailer with unwanted computers, monitors, microwaves, television sets and other electronic waste. The items will be recycled with a certified Kansas recycler, saving many pounds of waste from entering the area landfills.

1st ANNUAL PARSONS STAFF RECOGNITION PRESENTATION

Laura Hanigan, manager of human resources at the Life Span Institute at Parsons, emceed the 1st Annual Staff Recognition Presentation held in Parsons.



Twenty-two staff and friends applauded the five honorees as each was presented a University of Kansas Jayhawk lapel pin and souvenir program from the May 4, 2010 ceremony held at the University of Kansas Lawrence campus.

Pictured is Sheila Simmons (right) as she received her 20-year pin and engraved

University of Kansas paperweight, presented by Laura Hanigan. Other honorees were Laura Doyle-Colvin, 5 years; Sandy Hill, 10 years; Debbie Moody, 10 years; and Patty Black Moore, 15 years.

We cheered, we chatted, we ate cake, and we're planning to do it again next year.



STAFF NEWS

**Shannon
Tierney**
Research
Assistant

I've returned for another summer of research between my junior and senior years at KU. Last year, I primarily worked with Dr. Dean Williams on Laboratory Models of Maladaptive Escape Behaviors.

This summer, I am mostly working with Dr. Kathryn Saunders on Recombinative Generalization of Within-Syllable Units in Mental Retardation. Although I help out

wherever I am needed in the lab, I spend most of my time working with Dr. Saunders to help create a computerized phonological awareness assessment. My immediate plans include studying for and taking the GRE sometime in the next month or two.

I will be joining new KU faculty member Dr. Derek Reed's lab in Lawrence in the fall, where I will most likely work on translational research projects that deal with impulsivity, self-control, and choice. Also, I will be applying to graduate schools this fall and winter in hopes of being accepted to a Ph.D. program in Behavior Analysis for the fall of 2011. My eventual goal is to become a professor and continue to do basic and/or translational research.

SEKRS, continued from page 1

Caregivers often put their own physical and mental health on the back burner because their loved ones needs cannot wait. Instead of pushing themselves to the point of burn-out, caregivers need to give themselves permission to take time for themselves which in turn really benefits their loved one. Respite is a win-win situation.”

In addition to Respite Services, SEKRS , Inc. programs include Coordinated Resource and Support Services, a crisis intervention program for persons with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and intellectual disabilities; Representative Payee Program, a program providing necessary support for management of finances; and Administration of Grants.

SEKRS, Inc. is a regional program supported through a unique collaborative partnership within communities of Southeast Kansas, including leaders from the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities (KUCDD) at Parsons, Parsons State Hospital and Training Center, CLASS LTD, Tri-Valley Developmental Services, Labette Community College, Southeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging and Labette Center for Mental Health Services. For additional information about Respite Services or their other programs, visit <http://www.sekrespiteservices.org>.

FYI

- If you have a need to see a paper copy of an issue of the **Journal of Experimental Analysis of Behavior**, Volume 2, 1959 through 1992, Katie Hine has made this resource available in the Research Library.
- **The Inclusive Community Garden Project announces the Parsons Community Garden Workshop Schedule for August-September 2010.** All workshops are from 12 Noon – 1 p.m. and are held in the Municipal Building Basement except for the August 5 meeting will be held in the City Commission Room, First Floor.
 - August 5: **Food Storage: More ways to preserve your produce** presented by Kylie Ludwig, Labette County Extension Agent/Family & Consumer Sciences
 - August 19: **Heirloom vs. Hybrid and Seed Starts** presented by Janet Hurley, gardener
 - September 2: **Organic Gardening** presented by Megan Hughes & Karen Landrum, gardeners
 - September 16: TBAFor information contact Sara, Sheila or Patty, Inclusive Community Garden Project, 620-421-8367.

Visit the Life Span Institute (LSI) at Parsons website at <http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu>