

# SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

== EAST CENTRAL INDIANA SPECIAL SERVICES.....MAY 25, 2021 ==

## YOU MADE IT!

Thank you for all of your hard work and effort this year. It's been one to remember, that's for sure! Take some time to refresh and renew yourself this summer. You've earned it!

Have a great summer and we'll see you on the "flip side,"  
Liza, Mort, and Lisa

## READ TO LEARN

Here is a link to the Council for Exceptional Children's book store:

<https://exceptionalchildren.org/store/books> You're sure to find something you need here!

Some featured books include:

**The Special Educator's Toolkit: Everything You Need to Organize, Manage, and Monitor Your Classroom** by Cindy Golden. Overwhelmed special educators: Reduce your stress and support student success with this practical toolkit for whole-classroom organization. A lifesaver for special educators in any K–12 setting, this book-and-CD set will help teachers expertly manage everything, from schedules and paperwork to student supports and behavior plans.

**Co Teach! Building and Sustaining Effective Classroom Partnerships in Inclusive Schools, Third Edition** by Marilyn Friend. Professionals continue to ask for practical information about co-teaching – from setting up, implementing, and maintaining successful programs to establishing positive relationships in the classroom to resolving interpersonal and logistics difficulties to tackling issues such as finding common planning time. Answers to these and a host of other questions about this contemporary model for educating students with disabilities can be found in "Co-Teach! A Manual for Creating and Sustaining Effective Classroom Partnerships in Inclusive Schools (3rd edition)." This teacher-friendly book, complete with discussion questions and extensive resources, is designed to address your

questions about co-teaching, whether you are just anticipating co-teaching, are a novice co-teacher, or are a veteran co-teacher.

### **Four Book Set on Educating Students With Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum**

**Disorder.** CEC, in partnership with the CEC Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD), published a four-book set titled *Educating Students With Intellectual Disability and Autism Disorder*. The set is a comprehensive resource, providing educators with the most up-to-date information on what works in real classrooms with real students. The books in the series describe day-to-day strategies and practices based on research and evidence, giving education teams the information and the confidence they need to support children and young adults in achieving positive outcomes.

### **A Principal's Guide to Special Education, 3rd Edition** by David F. Bateman

and C. Fred Bateman. An essential handbook for educating students in the 21st century since its initial publication, *A Principal's Guide to Special Education* has provided guidance to school administrators seeking to meet the needs of students with disabilities. The third edition of this invaluable reference, updated in collaboration with and endorsed by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals and incorporating the perspectives of both teachers and principals, addresses such current issues as teacher accountability and evaluation, instructional leadership, collaborative teaching and learning communities, discipline procedures for students with disabilities, and responding to students' special education needs within a standards-based environment.

## **ENJOY A BOOK STUDY!**

The Reading League Indiana, International Dyslexia Association - Indiana, and [PATINS Project](#) have partnered up for a summer book study on learning why background knowledge is such a critical - and often overlooked - component of **science-based** and **equitable literacy instruction** as an introduction to our summer study on Natalie Wexler's *The Knowledge Gap*.

Participate in virtual **small group discussions and slow Twitter chats** to receive professional growth tips and engage in conversation with educators and parents across the state.

To conclude the summer book study, you are invited to an **exclusive evening with author Natalie Wexler!** Natalie will share insights from her book, *The Knowledge Gap*, on the power of a content-rich curriculum and answer your questions about teaching, learning, and anything in between.

Check out "[The Knowledge Gap](#)" [Pacing Guide](#) for registration links and full schedule of these no-cost events.

## **READ FOR PLEASURE**

Here are some books that may interest you for a bit of summer reading!

**Jewel** by Bret Lott (1991). With five healthy children, Jewel and Leston Hilburn were happy and believed life would continue in a slow-paced Mississippi way. But when Jewel and Leston's sixth is born a "Mongolian Idiot," as the New Orleans doctor declared, their life changes and Jewel leads her family on a journey to California that will bring all manner of hardship and joy.

**A Three Dog Life** by Abigail Thomas (2006). When Abigail Thomas's husband, Rich, was hit by a car, his brain shattered. Subject to rages, terrors, and hallucinations, he must live the rest of his life in an institution. He has no memory of what he did the hour, the day, the year before. This book is the story of how Abigail rebuilt her new life-it is a story of great courage and great change, of moving to a small country town, of a new family composed of three dogs, knitting, and friendship, of facing down guilt and discovering gratitude. It is also about her relationship with Rich, a man who lives in the eternal present, and the eerie poetry of his often uncanny perceptions.

**The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down** by Anne Fadiman (1997). *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* explores the clash between a small county hospital in California and a refugee family from Laos over the care of Lia Lee, a Hmong child diagnosed with severe epilepsy. Lia's parents and her doctors both wanted what was best for Lia, but the lack of understanding between them led to tragedy. This is an amazing book about epilepsy, families, Hmong history and culture. It is a "must read."

**House Rules** by Jodi Picoult (2010). From the author's website: House Rules is about Jacob Hunt, a teenage boy with Asperger's Syndrome (AS). He's hopeless at reading social cues or expressing himself well to others, and like many kids with AS, Jacob has a special focus on one subject-in his case, forensic analysis. He's always showing up at crime scenes, thanks to the police scanner he keeps in his room, and telling the cops what they need to do...and he's usually right. But then one day his tutor is found dead, and the police come to question him. All of the hallmark behaviors of Asperger's-not looking someone in the eye, stimulatory tics and twitches, inappropriate affect-can look a heck of a lot like guilt to law enforcement personnel-and suddenly, Jacob finds himself accused of murder. House Rules looks at what it means to be different in our society, how autism affects a family, and how our legal system works well for people who communicate a certain way-but lousy for those who don't.

**Still Alice** by Lisa Genova (2007). Still Alice is about a 50-year-old woman's sudden descent into early onset Alzheimer's disease, written by first-time author Lisa Genova, who holds a Ph.D. in neuroscience from Harvard University.

**60 Days to Sanity – A College Freshman's Struggle to Overcome Mental Illness** by Peter Barnes (2011). The author's description of the book: In the fall of 1989, I was a wide-eyed teenager bound for college. Less than a month later, I was fighting my way out of a padded room. *Sixty Days to Sanity* is neither a step-by-step guide nor a medical journal about the causes and effects of bipolar disorder. *Sixty Days to Sanity* is my best recollection of what happened, when at 18, my world was turned upside down by a severe manic episode and diagnosis of Bipolar I. The focus of this story is the human side of bipolar disorder and how these initial sixty days affected me and those close to me. It's my hope that *Sixty Days to*

*Sanity* can provide valuable insight to those coping with a diagnosis of bipolar disorder and those friends, families and professionals who are attempting to understand it.

**Where are the Cocoa Puffs?: A Family's Journey Through Bi-Polar Disorder** by Karen Winters Schwartz (2010). As eighteen-year-old, Amanda spirals into mania, her father, psychiatrist Dr. Jerry Benson, sees the realization of his worst fears: his daughter is not just moody, but truly ill. With his words, his diagnosis-manic depressive illness-his world and that of his family is forever altered.

**Until Tuesday, A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him** by Captain Luis Montalvan (2011). A highly decorated captain in the U.S. Army, Luis Montalván never backed down from a challenge during his two tours of duty in Iraq. After returning home from combat, however, his physical wounds and crippling post-traumatic stress disorder began to take their toll. He wondered if he would ever recover.

Then Luis met Tuesday, a sensitive golden retriever trained to assist the disabled. Tuesday had lived among prisoners and at a home for troubled boys, and he found it difficult to trust in or connect with a human being-until Luis.

*Until Tuesday* is the story of how two wounded warriors, who had given so much and suffered the consequences, found salvation in each other. It is a story about war and peace, injury and recovery, psychological wounds and spiritual restoration. But more than that, it is a story about the love between a man and dog, and how, together, they healed each other's souls.

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time** by Mark Haddon (2003). Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, fifteen-year-old Christopher is autistic and everyday interactions and admonishments have little meaning for him. He lives on patterns, rules, and a diagram kept in his pocket. Then one day, a neighbor's dog, Wellington, is killed and his carefully constructive universe is threatened. Christopher sets out to solve the murder in the style of his favorite (logical) detective, Sherlock Holmes.

**Far from the Tree: Parent, Children and the Search for Identity** by Andrew Solomon (2012). This book explores what it is like to raise children who are profoundly different – children with Down syndrome, deafness, autism, mental illness, or children who are prodigies, become criminals, or who have profound multiple disabilities. He writes about families coping with difference and supposes while each of these characteristics is potentially isolating, the experience of difference within families is universal.

One of the themes that flows through the book is the struggle all parents have – how much do you accept your child for just who the child is, and how much do you help them become their best selves. Solomon's writing and interview style is what makes this book compelling – he is able to tell a family's story so that you understand the family's strengths and weaknesses and their struggle to love and compassion.

**WATCH TO LEARN**

Here is a link to a LOT of videos from the IEP Resource Center on various special education topics.. <https://www.youtube.com/user/indianaiep/videos>

Did you like the breathing exercises with Adam Saenz this year? If you just didn't get time to view them before, you can view them now. Here are some other series from him that you might enjoy:

The Breath Series: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN2P8SpU2zyOrIKFdqe75ipQYx4QGJ7aS>

The Body Series:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN2P8SpU2zyNklfxSz\\_9S7DbScJqi47q4](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN2P8SpU2zyNklfxSz_9S7DbScJqi47q4)

The Mind Series: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN2P8SpU2zyPelmWEResj77UiWC7WDm4h>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN2P8SpU2zyPelmWEResj77UiWC7WDm4h>

## WATCH FOR PLEASURE

Below are 11 movies about or involving individuals with special needs. Take some time to chill and watch a few!

### Radio

Football coach Harold Jones (Ed Harris) sees a young mentally challenged young man walk by his team's practice everyday and begins to take an interest in him. Jones invites him to help out at practice and basically be part of the team. Soon the young man, James Robert Kennedy aka Radio (Cuba Gooding Jr.), begins to have an influence on all those around him. Radio even goes to school by helping out Coach Jones and going to classes himself. Some people in the small South Carolina town do not approve of Radio and begin to make steps to have him examined by professionals and possibly move him out of town. The ending, in which we see the actual Radio, still cheering his team on 26 years later, will melt the most cynical hearts.

### Temple Grandin

Biopic of Temple Grandin, an autistic woman who overcame the limitations imposed on her by her condition to become an expert in the field of animal husbandry. She developed an interest in cattle early in life while spending time at her Aunt and Uncle's ranch. She did not speak until age four and had difficulty right through high school, mostly in dealing with people. Her mother was very supportive as were some of her teachers. She is noted for creating her 'hug box', widely recognized today as a way of relieving stress and her humane design for the treatment of cattle in processing plants, even winning an award from PETA. Today, she is a professor at Colorado State University.

### Front of the Class

The triumphant life story of Brad Cohen, a man who overcomes incredible obstacles to become a gifted teacher. When he was growing up, Brad started making funny noises – all the time. Only Brad – and his supportive mother – knew he couldn't control it. He was teased, misunderstood and punished for disrupting class. By the time he is diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, Brad had learned to hate school. When an understanding school principal offers

encouragement, amazingly Brad decides to become a teacher – the teacher he never had. But who in their right mind would put someone with Tourette's in front of the class? After 24 schools turned him down, Brad refused to give up. Discover what happens when one school finally gives him a chance.

### Rain Man

*Rain Man* is the kind of touching drama that Oscars are made for-and, sure enough, the film took Academy honors for best picture, director, screenplay, and actor (Dustin Hoffman) in 1988. Hoffman plays Raymond, an autistic savant whose late father has left him \$3 million in a trust. This gets the attention of his materialistic younger brother, a hot-shot LA car dealer named Charlie (Tom Cruise) who wasn't even aware of Raymond's existence until he read his estranged father's will. Charlie picks up Raymond and takes him on a cross-country journey that becomes a voyage of discovery for Charlie, and, perhaps, for Raymond, too. What began as an unsentimental journey for the Babbitt brothers becomes much more than the distance between two places- it's a connection between two vastly different people and a poignant, profound and powerful film.

### I am Sam

A mentally challenged man fighting to retain custody of his 7-year-old daughter. Sam (Sean Penn), who has the mental age of 7, wipes down tables at a Los Angeles Starbucks and takes good care of his daughter Lucy (Dakota Fanning), who was left with him shortly after birth by a homeless woman. Sam has gotten by just fine with a little help from his friends, including his eccentric neighbor and a lovable group of similarly challenged friends, but a series of misunderstandings leaves Sam fighting to get Lucy back from the state. Sam's lawyer, Rita Harrison (Michelle Pfeiffer), is an overly ambitious woman whose life is soon transformed by proximity to Sam's brimming humanity.

### Adam

*Adam* is not a typical romantic comedy. The death of his father leaves Adam living alone in the apartment they shared. When a friendly young woman named Beth moves into the building, Adam doesn't know how to express his attraction-he has Asperger's Syndrome, a form of high-functioning autism that prevents common human empathy. So he invites her into his apartment to experience his homemade planetarium and takes her to the park in the middle of the night to look at raccoons. Despite herself, Beth is intrigued. At first she's baffled by Adam, but when she learns the source of his awkwardness, she starts to appreciate Adam's honesty and lack of guile—particularly as family secrets start to emerge when her father is indicted for financial misdoings.

### The Other Sister

When Carla Tate, now a young woman, is 'graduated' out of the training school where she has resided for many years because she is mentally challenged, her hope is that she will be accepted for all that she can now do for herself. But Carla's family is wealthy which permits her mother, already blinded to her daughter's rather high-functioning abilities, to try and provide for Carla beyond her needs or desires, bringing forth the inevitable confrontations... for what Carla may lack in mental ability she certainly makes up for in her insistence on being independent, even to living in her own apartment. But if this isn't enough, into the mix comes a young man, equally challenged mentally, who moves Carla beyond anyone's control...

### [The Memory Keeper's Daughter](#)

David (Dermot Mulroney) and Norah (Gretchen Mol) are the perfect couple. Unable to get his wife to the hospital during a blizzard, David delivers their twins himself. But he recognizes right away that the second, a baby girl has Down Syndrome. Instead of sharing the news with his wife after she wakes up, he makes the decision that he will tell her that only their son survived. He orders his nurse Caroline (Emily Watson) to take his daughter to an institution. Norah, who never got to say goodbye to her baby, has never been able to get closure and is in a constant state of grieving. David lives with the guilt of what he has done, but doesn't really think he did anything wrong. Even their son feels that something is missing from his life. Caroline, who had always been a loner, winds up having the most complete life. Defying David's orders, she takes the little girl, Phoebe, and runs away with her to raise the girl as her own.

### [Of Mice & Men](#)

John Steinbeck's classic comes magnificently to life in this beautiful and stirring film starring Oscar nominees John Malkovich and Gary Sinise. Best friends Lennie (Malkovich) and George (Sinise) find themselves unemployed in Depression-era California, unable to keep jobs because of Lennie's childlike mentality. But once they get hired at the Tyler Ranch, they enjoy a brief period of stability – until their supervisor's wife (Sherilyn Fenn) becomes the victim of Lennie's compassion, forcing George to make a compassionate decision of his own. There's not a false note or bad performance in the entire film; as Malkovich and Sinise possess the compassionate chemistry that makes George and Lennie inseparable until the tragic, inevitable final scene.

### [Forrest Gump](#)

Forrest, Forrest Gump is a simple man with little brain activity but good intentions. He struggles through childhood with his best and only friend Jenny. His 'mama' teaches him the ways of life and leaves him to choose his destiny. Forrest joins the army for service in Vietnam, finding new friends called Dan and Bubba, he wins medals, starts a ping-pong craze, creates a famous shrimp fishing fleet, inspires people to jog, create the smiley, write bumper stickers and songs, donating to people and meeting the president several times. However this is all irrelevant to Forrest who can only think of his childhood sweetheart Jenny. Who has messed up her life. Although in the end all he wants to prove is that anyone can love anyone.

### [Phoebe in Wonderland](#)

*Phoebe in Wonderland* is a family drama about Phoebe Lichten (Elle Fanning), who lives with two author-parents, Hillary (Felicity Huffman) and Peter (Bill Pullman), who encourage her imagination. Phoebe yearns to participate in the school's *Alice in Wonderland* performance, headed by the mysteriously alluring drama teacher, Miss Dodger (Patricia Clarkson), who also champions Phoebe's strange digressions with the onset of Tourette's syndrome. The film traces Phoebe's imagination as it becomes increasingly obsessive, and the viewer is privy to both Phoebe's internalized interpretation of what is happening to her and her behaviors from an exterior perspective.

### [My Left Foot](#)

Adapted from Brown's own autobiography for this spirited piece, Daniel Day-Lewis won a much-deserved Oscar for his wily, passionate performance as Irish artist and writer Christy Brown, whose cerebral palsy kept him confined to a wheelchair. Christy Brown is a spastic quadriplegic born to a large, poor Irish family. His mother, Mrs Brown, recognizes the intelligence and humanity in the lad everyone else regards as a vegetable. Eventually, Christy matures into a cantankerous writer who uses his only functional limb, his left foot, to write with.

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**

