



**The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County  
Teacher Study Group Grant Award  
Summer 2005**

**FINAL REPORT  
DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES**

**STUDY GROUP TOPIC: Multiple Disabilities**

**List of group members: Amy Nugent, Jessie McClain, Sheila O'Brien, John Sweeney,  
Kathy Shatara, Molly Corwin**

**The final report must be word-processed and submitted both in print and on disk using this form.  
Include information under each of the following headings.**

The Teacher Center of Broome County is requesting that two members of each study group funded as of June 2005 share the information gained through their study with other consortium members by presenting a workshop during the 2005 -2006 school year. Please indicate on your final report who we should contact to make arrangements for your presentation.

<b>Name</b>	<b>School/District</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail Address</b>
Amy Nugent	Roosevelt/Binghamton	762-8280	nugenta@bcsd.stier.org

**Describe the initial goal of the group noting any adjustments that had to be made as time passed.**

The initial goal of our group was to address our PALS program as a continuous program, and to explore ways to effectively teach our population independent life skills. We also looked at what each level was attempting to cover and how these skills were built on and could be related to gainful employment. We also looked into various methods of teaching the younger multiply disabled. Each teacher gave ideal entrance and exit skills for their ages of students. We also addressed concerns regarding our programs and where to go for answers to our concerns. In addition, we developed a working philosophy that encompasses all of our programs. We presented an overview of the Alternate Assessment Datafolio that all of the classrooms will be required to do in the future. We invited a speech teacher to discuss ways to reach our students and how to foster proper speech growth. An ideal end to our study group was a tour of Country Valley Industries, which was not an original goal, but fit very nicely. Our programs work toward helping our population become independent citizens, and this tour highlighted multiply disabled adults who were successfully independent.

**Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.**

Our action plan consisted of systematically going through our goals and discussing 1-2 topics each week. All participants were to bring insights or ideas to the next meeting.

**Describe how the action plan was implemented.**

As leader, I would direct each meeting, reviewing what we had already covered and what we were attempting to cover in the session. All participants shared their ideas and concerns at all meetings. Notes were taken, and a copy of all notes, articles and handouts were given to each member. Outside contacts- speech teacher, Country Valley Industries, and administration were made by Jessie McClain.

**Evaluation of the impact of the study group effort on teacher/student performance.**

- How has this study group changed you as a teacher? Do you anticipate that any of your teaching practices will have changed?

This study group will impact all of our teaching, and student performance greatly. We leave the group with a wealth of ideas to motivate, teach independence and reduce unwanted behaviors. Each level of our program now has a concise list of expectations, and our programs end goals are clearly defined, so that we can build our curriculum toward these end goals.

I believe that all of our teaching practices will be greatly enhanced by the things we learned and shared during this study group.

- What evidence do you **expect** to see of student achievement improving as a result of your participating in this study group?

Our students will benefit from the structure and routine that they will see year after year in our programs. Our student's learning will improve when we implement the new ideas and the ways to motivate and reach our students.

- What evidence is there that the goals of the study group has/has not been met?

The evidence that the goals have been met is in the wealth of ideas that were shared. Each teacher and aide will return to the classroom with many new ways to reach and teach our population. We shared many motivation ideas, ways to turn party games into learning exercises, and lists of things that seem to work well with all ages. We compiled an extensive list of ideal entrance and exit goals for each class. This will help all of us to better align our curriculum and spend more time on helping our students master certain skills so that the next class setting is more successful with building onto the skills.

**Comment on the value of the study group process? Did it work for you?**

The open-ended method of setting up our group worked well. We have a group of motivated and caring teachers that work with the multiply disabled population. We all want to help our students be the best they can be. We all recognize that fostering independence in every possible way will only help our students. We came to this group looking for ways to better teach our students, and we leave this group with a wealth of knowledge that will only help our students.

**How can we make this study group program better?**

The best way to make it better is to offer MORE opportunities for others to take part!