



The **Hill**Springs Learning Center



Empower

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Courage to Risk

At the end of January, HillSprings participated in the 20th annual statewide special education conference “Courage to Risk” held at The Broadmoor hotel. HillSprings faculty attended keynote speakers and workshops to further professional development while parents and board members monitored the booth designed to promote our programs and outreach events. 🐛



Dee Fowler, Board Member and Donna Tamas, parent, at the HillSprings booth.


Summer Program

We are pleased to announce that the 5th year of our Summer Program for students in grades K-8 will take place from June 23 through July 25. School hours will occur from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, except for July 4. Students will receive instruction in reading, written language, math and study skills. Each student will be given an individual assessment before the program begins so that specific objectives will be established and his/her progress will be optimized. The tuition for the five week program is \$1,500.00

Due to our highly desirable student-teacher ratio of 4:1 and highly qualified staff, we strongly suggest that you call 576-3840 or email charlietye@hillsprings.org for an application form. 🐛

Jonathan Mooney – A Great Friend to Kids with Learning Differences

The HillSprings Learning Center will host Jonathan Mooney on Saturday April 12, 2008 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort. Mooney, described as bright, energetic and powerful, will present “The Gift” citing research that validates learning differences as a set of cognitive gifts and empowering parents and teachers with applicable strategies to build positive self-understanding in their children. He will also speak directly to students in a break out session, and sign his two books *Learning Outside the Lines* – part memoir and part alternative study skills guide for high school and college students and *The Short Bus* – a remarkable, magical book that is a true celebration of survival and diversity. The cost is \$10 for individuals, \$15 for families (this program is not appropriate for children under the age of 10) and high school and college students are free with ID.

Mooney is an author and activist who has established himself as one of the foremost leaders in LD/ADD and alternative education. He speaks honestly and passionately to students, teachers and parents about living with learning problems. He’s dyslexic, has attention deficit disorder and did not learn to read until he was 12 years old, yet he graduated from Brown University with an honors degree in English Literature. 

For more information or to register, please visit www.hillsprings.org or call Charlie Tye at (719) 576-3840.


Success in Life

A 20 year research project conducted in California revealed that when individuals with learning differences were given direct instruction in success attributes, it led to positive life outcomes. Likewise, Dr. Mel Levine, internationally respected author, pediatrician and learning expert encourages parents and teachers to “demystify” children’s learning issues. He feels it is extremely important to help children understand their learning strengths and weaknesses and to provide them with strategies to help them see their learning differences as manageable.

At HillSprings we believe that children with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder may have academic challenges during their school years, yet in adulthood they can lead satisfying, rewarding, productive lives if we include success attributes derived from the research project in California, and Levine’s learning constructs in our daily curriculum. Consequently, each month we have an all school theme which focuses on these important topics. Each HillSprings class reads books, has discussions and does a variety of activities in an effort to help our students understand the constructs of attention, memory, organization, social cognition, and motivation, and the success attributes of self-awareness, proactivity (belief in the power to control your own destiny), goal setting, emotional coping strategies, willingness to actively seek the support of others and most importantly, perseverance.

“HillSprings taught me ways to manage my frustration. When I first came here, I always got angry when I got the wrong answers. Now I can calm myself down.” (Tanner, age 11)

“I work with a HillSprings teacher who understands my disability. The hyper-focus and creativity that I have are unique assets. While the inattention is a burden, I know how to deal with it.” (Andrew, age 18)

“I did not give up. I knew I could overcome my difficulty with learning. Now I can do stuff I thought I never could do.” (Drew, age 9) 



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Representative Merrifield Sponsors Dyslexia Bill

The National Institutes of Health estimate that dyslexia affects about 1 in 7 people, and scientific evidence exists that dyslexia is a physical disability. Yet, according to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), most of the state's teachers are not adequately trained to identify or remediate this very common learning disability. Since October, concerned educators and parents from throughout the state have been working with Rep. Michael Merrifield, Chair of the House Education Committee, to address this deficit. The result is House Bill 1223, a step towards serving dyslexic students better.

In summary, HB 1223:

- Directs the CDE to develop training and technical assistance to address dyslexia and other literacy challenges.
- Instructs the CDE to develop training in awareness, identification, evidenced-based progress monitoring and scientifically-based interventions to address the needs of students with literacy challenges, including dyslexia.
- Encourages the CDE to coordinate with teacher preparation programs at state colleges and institutions.
- Requires the CDE to report its progress annually to the State Board of Education and legislature.

The timing is right to address this deficit in the public education system because of the implementation of the Response to Intervention (RtI) model that schools are required to implement by August, 2009.

Please consider contacting your Representative and Senator (you can find them at www.leg.state.co.us) to ask support of HB 1223 (ask this in the first line/sentence). Let them know you are a voter in their district and tell them your personal story in a simple paragraph. You might even hand-write a note and send it in the mail. Make sure to let them know how to contact you if they wish to do so.

Your support will bring us one step closer to helping thousands of otherwise intelligent and capable kids experience success at school thereby helping them to reach their potential and preventing them from becoming at-risk for dropping out. 🌱

RAP Training

In June 2007, thanks to a generous grant from The Sam Price Family Foundation, 18 teachers participated in HillSprings' first workshop for professional development. The Reading Achievement Program (RAP) is an adapted version of the highly successful, research based approach to teaching reading that was developed at The Hill Center in Durham, NC. It was specifically created as a tutoring model for students who are experiencing reading difficulties. Participants came from local school districts, private schools, Canon City, Delta and Boulder. Colorado participants were given all the materials that they needed to start teaching students immediately and HillSprings faculty helped many of them with follow up observations during the current school year. 🌱



RAP workshop June 2007

University Study

The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs is collaborating with HillSprings to conduct a research study to prove the efficacy of The Hill Center methodology. The most recent study for The Hill Center, conducted by Research Triangle International over a ten-year period, measured the progress that students made after being enrolled in the program for one or more years and showed significant improvement in achievement scores. HillSprings has collected over three years of data so we are ready to have that information analyzed and published. Elaine Cheesman Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Special Education, is supervising the program evaluation study. 🌱

HELP for Parents of Children with AD/HD

(Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder)

The more you know about it, the better you can deal with it!
Classes are available:

- A series of 6 weekly 2 hour in-depth educational classes. **\$50 fee**
The next series begins February 28th at 7 p.m. at Penrose Hospital. Parents are welcome to join the classes after the start date.
- Group support classes. **Free**

Contact Jane Anderson, CHADD Certified Instructor at janeacolo@aol.com or 634-7263. 

Visit our website
hillsprings.org
and view our
video!

Contact Us

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The HillSprings Learning Center admits students of any race, color, gender, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and other school-administered programs.



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The **HillSprings**
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