



The **Hill**Springs Learning Center



Empower

Dr. Mel Levine Seminar a Success!

Dr. Mel Levine, author, pediatrician and internationally acclaimed expert on children and learning, conducted a wonderful workshop at The Cheyenne Mountain Resort for parents and professionals on Nov. 16, 2006. Participants raved about his anecdotal delivery and message of hope for children who struggle with learning. A luncheon was attended by educators across the state who have participated in Dr. Levine's Schools Attuned program, including faculty from Fountain Valley School, and administrators from the Loveland schools who are implementing his strategies in their middle schools this year.

That evening, Dr. Levine was honored at a reception at The Colorado Springs School. Attendees included board members, advisors and supporters of HillSprings. Thanks to a generous grant from the Sam Price Family Foundation, HillSprings was able to raise awareness and educate the community as to the needs of students with learning differences. 🦿



Students Ta Neil Dodsworth (left) and Adam Freeman (right) with Dr. Mel Levine and Charlie Tye at evening reception.

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Summer Program

We are pleased to announce that the 4th year of our Summer Program for students in grades K-8, will take place from June 25 through July 27, 2007. 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. The tuition for the five-week program is \$1500. 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.

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. 🦿

HillSprings Wish List

- Digital camera
- Video camera/tripod
- Playground equipment including a balance beam
- Phonemic Awareness software
- Alpha Smarts/lap tops
- Computers with assistive technology in each classroom
- Upgraded monitors for current computers in lab
- Tony Atwood DVD
- Folding or stacking chairs
- Microwave oven
- Resources and additions for parent library
- Social skills curriculum and training
- Parent scholarships for local conferences

Dr. G Reid Lyon to Speak at April Community Forum

On April 19, 2007 at 7 p.m. in the Cheyenne Mountain High School auditorium, the LEAD Foundation will sponsor Dr. Reid Lyon. He has served as a research psychologist and chief of the Child Development and Behavior branch at the National Institute of Health. He was a member of the President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education, as well as the architect of the Reading First legislation within the No Child Left Behind act. He has authored numerous journal articles and books addressing learning differences and made numerous television appearances. Dr. Lyon is a warm and engaging speaker. The forum is free and open to the public. 🌱

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The Leaky Faucet

It wasn't something that I knew right away. It wasn't even something I figured out by myself. It was more like the slow drip, drip of a faucet that I ignored for as long as I could. "Andrew," my parents would say, "you're just as smart as everyone else, you just learn in a different way." Different? That's an understatement. "Andrew, your grades are unacceptable, you've got to work harder," my parents said, "you won't get into college if you can't do better."

"Drop some classes," said my school counselor, "you can still go to community college." I'm NOT going to community college; I insisted; that won't happen to me. I just wouldn't think about that yet. Drip. Drip.

I eventually found out I have Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). When you have the inattentive type like me, people think you're lazy because why else would you forget to turn in homework or constantly get the teacher's directions confused...like building the strongest bridge for Problem Solving class but misunderstanding the dimensions requirement so that it can't compete in the contest.... All I knew was that I never did as well in school as I wanted but had no clue how to change my fate. But, there was something else that confused me.

"Andrew, why did your Rube Goldberg machine work when no one else's did?" my friends would ask. "How do you know how to fix that microphone?" "How did you know that you could make a go-kart from a lawn mower engine?" I don't know how I know; I just do it. It's like the light bulb is always on; that stuff is easy for me, it makes sense. No directions needed. Unfortunately, no grades are given for those things, either.

I have also discovered this year that I have a learning disability in math. That helps me understand why I have always struggled with classes like science and astronomy that require algebra. Now I work with a HillSprings teacher who understands my disability.....

The greatest challenge for me is turning the negative into a positive and learning to be successful.....I see ADD as a gift as well as a curse. The hyper-focus and creativity that I have are unique assets. While the inattention is a burden, I now know how to deal with it. I no longer leave my studies unattended like a leaky faucet. I refuse to quit and I have the determination to be a successful college student. 🌱

Introducing the HillSprings Staff

Charlotte "Charlie" Tye

Teacher/Director

Charlie has 34 years of experience in the field of Learning Disabilities. She learned to "Dream Big!" in 2002 when the idea of replicating The Hill Center began. Married 40 years, she has 2 grown children and enjoys skiing, lifting weights, her two dachshunds and gourmet cooking.

Connie Kreider

Teacher

Connie has been teaching kindergarten to ninth graders for 33 years, from Norway to Indiana. She is recently retired from Academy District 20 where she was a reading specialist, curriculum leader and in-service provider. She has a daughter who lives in NYC, frequents the Y, is a "cat person" and tutors students privately.

Lori McCawley

Teacher

It does not seem possible to Lori that she has been teaching for 29 years! She loves small group work and working with students one-to-one in her private practice, Sound Learning Inc. At home she spends time with her two kooky kitties, Max and Nelson.

Barb Ray

Teacher

Barb's life adventure has taken her from social work to software analysis to raising children and finally, to teaching kids how to learn and discover their passions. She works with students in her private practice. Hiking, yoga, reading, politics, a sheltie and 4 kids keep her young and make her wiser by the year.



Staff members in their new HillSprings sweatshirts.

Barb White

Teacher

Barb has been in the teaching field for 33 years working with students from pre-school to high school, ranging from gifted, to behavior disordered, to incarcerated to those with severe medical needs, but the past two years at HillSprings have been the most rewarding. She and husband Roc have 2 college age daughters with LD and she wishes that HillSprings would have been available to them when they were young.

Karen West

Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant

Karen became involved with the start up of HillSprings in 2003 as a board member. She loves working for nonprofits, yoga and hiking and also is involved with The Independent weekly newspaper. She is the mother of two teenage daughters, one of whom is a successful high school junior with LD.

Did you know?

Learning Disabled is the largest handicap category among special education students in Colorado. For last school year, the Colorado Department of Education reported 30,462 students identified with LD.

New Advisory Board Member – Denise Ensslin

HillSprings is honored to introduce the newest addition to our advisory board, Denise Ensslin. Denise is the 2006 winner of the Floyd G. Hudson Service Award given by the national Council for Learning Disabilities for outstanding performance and commitment to individuals with learning disabilities by professionals who are not necessarily special education teachers. Last fall she was recognized by the Colorado Council of Learning Disabilities as the Professional of the Year. In her 32 year career, Denise has been an exemplary teacher, presenter, coach, trainer, curriculum director, as well as a consultant to the Colorado Dept. of Education. 🌱

Visit our website
hillsprings.org
and view our
video!

HillSprings Board of Directors

Carol Anderson	Beth Lieberman
Jim Freeman	Cathleen Meadows
Dee Fowler	Janis Sharkey
Patricia Geesaman	Ann Smith
Bobbie Goldstein	Mark Vonarx

Contact Us

Board President	Mark Vonarx	442-0073	mvonarx@pcisys.net
Vice President	Dee Fowler	238-3459	dfowler@ppld.org
Secretary	Patricia Geesaman	227-1043	patricia@nextgenpharma.com
Treasurer	Jim Freeman	579-9073	jim_freeman@cta.com
Director	Charlie Tye	576-3840	charlietye@hillsprings.org

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**
Learning Center

Advisory Board

Harry Anderson, M.D.
*Pediatrician and Developmental,
Behavioral and LD*

Sarah Bender, M.A.
Educational Therapist

Marcia Braden, Ph.D.
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Denise Ensslin, M.A.
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Ralph Everett, M.D.
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Rhonda Sunde, M.A, L.P.C.
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David and Peggy Taylor
*Parents of 3 successful young adults
with LD*

Gary M. Unruh, MSW, LCSW
Director, Child and Adolescent Clinic

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