



Winter 2003

Empower

The Newsletter of The HillSprings Learning Center

Dr. Mel Levine to Visit Colorado Springs in 2004

The HillSprings Learning Center is delighted to announce that one of the world's best known education experts, Dr. Mel Levine, has graciously accepted our invitation to visit Colorado Springs on Friday, April 2nd and Saturday, April 3rd 2004.

He will present a lecture and conduct a book signing on Friday evening. On Saturday he will host an all-day

workshop for parents, educators and others interested in exploring the myriad of ways in which young minds differ.

He will give practical advice on how to nurture children's strengths and improve their classroom productivity.

Contact us if you'd like to help us maximize the impact and reach of his landmark visit.

Never heard of the good doctor? Please read on.

Dr. Mel Levine is Professor of Pediatrics at the University of North Carolina Medical School and Director of the University's Clinical Center for the Study of Development and Learning.

He and Charles R. Schwab co-founded and co-chair **All Kinds of Minds** (www.allkindsofminds.org), a nonprofit Institute for the study of differences in learning.

Levine describes it as "*an institute that devises procedures and products to help teachers, parents and kids themselves learn how the mind goes about learning*".

He graduated summa cum laude from Brown University, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and later graduated from Harvard Medical School.

Over the past 30 years he has pioneered programs for evaluating children and young adults with learning, development and behavioral problems

Dr. Levine's groundbreaking framework for understanding why children struggle in school provides a straightforward, practical system for recognizing variations in the way children learn.

He started **Schools Attuned** in 2000, a comprehensive, professional development and service program for K-12 educators. The program shows teachers how to recognize students' different learning behaviors in the classroom and guides teachers to design their instruction around students' strengths.

Levine has developed unique alliances with education and health care professionals who provide individualized evaluation and management programs for families with children who have learning differences called **Student Success Centers**. "We are totally against the labelization of children... everybody has dysfunctions, the only question is whether yours are getting in the way right now", he said in a recent training institute.

His latest publications include [A Mind at a Time](#) (which was a New York Times bestseller for 29 weeks in 2002) and [The Myth of Laziness](#).



HillSprings - How it all began . . .

The idea for The HillSprings Learning Center was conceived in Spring 2002 by a group of parents and professionals who believed that Colorado Springs needed a school designed for kids with learning differences.

HillSprings is modeled after The Hill Center, a non-profit, private learning facility in Durham, North Carolina, which has been helping challenged kids for more than 25 years. (www.hillcenter.org)

HillSprings will be a half-day school providing students who have been diagnosed with specific learning disabilities or attention deficit disorders the opportunity to develop to their full academic potential.

HillSprings will offer specialized, multisensory instruction in a positive and

caring environment in classroom settings that have no more than four students per teacher.

We believe that this methodology offers the "best of all worlds". Students receive instruction in reading, written language and math at HillSprings in the mornings, then return to their "home" school for the rest of the school day for instruction in the other subject areas, to participate in extracurricular activities and to maintain relationships with friends and teachers.

We anticipate the average time of enrollment at HillSprings to be two years. Our aim is to begin operating officially in Fall 2004.

We invite you to join us in making The HillSprings Learning Center a great place for kids with learning differences.

The HillSprings Learning Center

What we are:	What we are not:
√ A half-day school	_ An after-school remediation facility
√ Non-profit school	_ Charter school
√ Privately funded	_ Government funded
√ Half-day academic program	_ Full-day academic program
√ Supplement to local public and private schools	_ Replacement for local public or private schools
√ Curriculum includes intensive remediation in reading, written language and math only	_ Curriculum includes all grade level subjects
√ Appropriate for students whose primary diagnosis is a specific learning disability or attention deficit disorder	_ Appropriate for students whose primary diagnosis is something other than a specific learning disability
√ Average enrollment is 2 years	_ Average enrollment is for entire school career
√ Teachers are trained, certified and instruct in the research-based methodology which has been developed at The Hill Center over the past 25 years	_ Teachers use combinations of various methodologies

Successful Summer Intensives

This past summer, three of our teacher trainees offered two- and three-week summer intensives for students utilizing The Hill Center clinical instruction methods.

Students attended 3-hour morning sessions at The Colorado Springs School for 50 minutes each of reading, written language and math instruction.

Class size varied from two to four students.

We received very positive feedback from all the families involved and everyone was utterly amazed at the effectiveness of this powerful methodology.

We are more committed than ever to making HillSprings a reality for students with learning disabilities in our community.

Planning for the summer program in 2004 is already underway. Don't miss out!

We will be offering one 5-week session from June 28 through July 30, 2004, meeting from 8:30 - 11:30 Monday through Friday. The session will be held at The Colorado Springs School. The cost will be \$1500 and enrollment will be on first come first served basis. We anticipate 4 four teachers and 12 students in total.

Please contact Charlie Tye (471-2106), Lori McCauley (229-6619), Barb Ray (563-2785) or Carole Young-Schroeder (635-4460) if you are interested or have any questions.



For some excellent ideas about holiday gifts for children with LD log onto www.schwablearning.org



HillSprings Board of Directors

Tom Anderson
 Tim Boddington
 Tom Faudree
 Renée Hartsliel
 John Hermes
 Marnie Hermes
 Lori McCauley
 Barbara Ray
 Janis Sharkey
 Charlotte "Charlie" Tye
 Carole Young-Schroeder
 Mark Vonarx
 Dorothy "Dottie" Walker
 Barbara White
 Ex-Officio: Carl West, Esq.

Donations Near \$40,000!

Barron and Tami Collier \$10,000
Elizabeth Wear \$10,000

Lori McCauley \$2,400
Steve and Janis Sharkey \$2,000
John and Patti Smith \$1,000
Dottie Walker \$1,000
Jeff and Diane Wilcox \$1000

Tom and Carol Anderson
Gary Backstrom
Phil and Alice Barnett
Nancy Bohnett
Marcia Braden PhD
John Fuller
Bobby and Renée Hartsliel
John and Marnie Hermes
Tom and Beth Howes
John and Mary Jackson
Jon and Michelle Kaibel
Bob and Bev Lee
Becky Medved
Steve and Carol Myers
Glen and Robin Noufer
Barb Ray
Jon Thomas and Jan Erickson
Barry and Betsy Sobral
Charlie Tye
Mark Vonarx
Jim and Pam Wear
Don and Ann Webster
Carl and Karen West
Roc and Barb White
Carole Young-Schroeder
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Zinn

Thank you! Thanks! Thank you!

Dr. Mel Levine Believes in the Methodology

For many years, Dr. Mel Levine has been on the advisory board of The Hill Center, the program that HillSprings is replicating here in Colorado Springs.

He has this to say about the methodology: *"The Hill Center is a unique entity. It has offered the world a viable model for helping children who are struggling and failing in their quest for success in school. The quality of*

teaching is exemplary. They make use of the very latest techniques that help students acquire reading skills as well as competencies in other areas...In short, The Hill Center is worthy of strong support and replication."

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that Dr. Mel Levine accepted Janis Sharkey's invitation to visit us in Colorado Springs when he heard of our replication plans. Janis, who moved from

Colorado Springs to Durham, NC, so that her son Brian could spend two years at The Hill Center, was instrumental in securing Levine's commitment to come to Colorado.

She and others on the HillSprings Board look forward to discussing with Levine the prospect of bringing **Schools Attuned** and **Student Success Centers** to Colorado in the future.

Teacher Training at The Hill Center

Lori McCauley, Charlie Tye, Rhonda Sunde, Barb Ray and Carole Young-Schroeder made their second trip to Durham to continue their training at The Hill Center (THC) in early September.

One day was spent at a "Hands on Math" workshop where we were able to review math materials used at THC and learn many new multisensory strategies for teaching math.

Over two days, we were able to observe teachers utilizing THC methodology and role

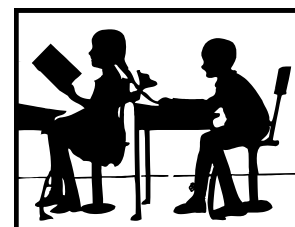
play various instructional scenarios.

Since we had already been using THC clinical instruction methods with some of our students, it was a great opportunity to develop and refine our skills under the tutelage of Jean Neville, THC Director of Training.

Over the next few months we will continue to send videos of demonstration lessons to Jean for feedback. Jean will visit Colorado Springs next

summer to conduct on-site observations and document our teaching competency.

Completion of THC training will lead to certification by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) for all trainees.



I Wish To Make A Tax Deductible Donation To HillSprings ...

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone # _____ Mobile # _____
 Email Address _____
 Donation Amount \$ _____ (Make checks payable to The HillSprings Learning Center)

- Please send future information to my email address
- Please send future information to my mailing address
- Please contact me for other assistance (volunteer work, grants, special assistance)

HillSprings Advisory Board

*Some of our
area's top
educators
and health
professionals
support
HillSprings.*

Harry Anderson, M.D.
Pediatrician
Developmental, Behavioral and
Learning Disabilities
Sarah Bender, M.A.
Educational Therapist
Jean Boswell
Executive Director
Children's Literacy Center
Marcia Braden, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist
Ralph Everett, M.D.
Child and Adolescent
Psychiatrist
Brian Grabert, M.D.
Developmental Pediatrician
Pediatric Neurologist

Karen Huff
Retired Principal
The Colorado Springs School
Sandy Johannsen, M.Ed.
Coordinator - Students with
Disabilities, Pikes Peak
Community College
Marge Riddle, Ph.D.
Director, Developmental
Neuropsychology Clinic,
University of Denver
Rhonda Sunde, M.A., L.P.C.
Clinical Director,
The Neuroconnection Inc.
David and Peggy Taylor
Parents of 3 successful
young adults with LD



Contact Us

Steering Committee: **Barb Ray:** (719) 573-2785 barshellray@yahoo.com
Charlie Tye: 471-2106 cwtye@adelphia.net
Mark Vonarx: 442-0073 mvonarx@pcisys.net
Training/Program: **Lori McCauley:** 531-7753 lmccauley@worldnet.att.net
Finance: **Renée Hartsliel:** 389-1255 reneehartsliel@prodigy.net
Location/Facilities: **John Hermes:** 576-4161
Outreach **Barb White:** 630-1735 barbjwhite@msn.com
Marnie Hermes: 576-4161 marniehome2000@aol.com

The HillSprings Learning Center admits students of any race, color, 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, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs.

THE HILLSPRINGS LEARNING CENTER
1805 Strasbourg Point
Colorado Springs CO 80906

