

2008 Fall Newsletter

8 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 812 | Chicago, Illinois 60603 | www.leaplearningsystems.org

Language Through Science – High Impact Teacher Professional Development

Leap Learning Systems kicked off this year's Language Through Science (LTS) program with a group training on Friday, Sept. 26th at the Timothy B. Blackstone Chicago Public Library Branch.



Educators enjoy a LTS activity during the training

Language Through Science (LTS) is a professional development program for early childhood educators. The program combines trainings with lesson plans to show teachers easy ways of encouraging their students' pre-literacy and language skills through science instruction.

Sixteen educators attended the initial training, and twenty one teachers are expected to participate this fall.

Teachers were trained on the scientific process as adapted for the early childhood classroom and on Leap Language Techniques. These classroom techniques, when used frequently, are proven to aid children's early language development.

"As a reading teacher, I often find that children are having difficulty learning to read because they do not have well

developed language skills," commented Cathy Mallade, a reading teacher at Ariel Community Academy. "After attending the Language Through Science training, I feel confident that this program will help decrease the number of children who encounter reading difficulties."

This year, LTS has been expanded to include kindergarten teachers. By having a strong partnership between preschool and kindergarten teachers within the same schools, classroom content will be closely aligned.

Principals or teachers interested in Language Through Science should contact Liz@leaplearningsystems.org.

Look for Leap Learning Systems on the following dates:

- Nov 20-22 | **American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention, Chicago**
- Dec 5 | **StarNet Region V Training– Language Techniques, Chicago**
- Jan 22, 2009 | **Chicago Metro AEYC Conference**

For more information on specific presentations, visit www.leaplearningsystems.org, or call 312.578.1255

Leap Team Presents Best Practices at Conference in Nairobi, Kenya

In September, founder Kate H. Gottfred, Ph.D. and Leap Coach Abbie Olszewski joined Leap consultant and former staff member Brenda Staley in Kenya for the 2nd East African Speech Therapy Conference.

The conference brought together prominent American speech language pathologists and the local African speech community to discuss a variety of topics of global importance, including *Language and the Effects of Poverty* (presented by

Kate and Abbie) and *Connecting Culture through Speech Therapy Practices* (presented by Abbie).

Other presenters included Laura Justice, Ph.D., Joan Kaderavek, Ph.D., and Rosario Roman.

The audience for the week-long conference was comprised of thirty participants from a variety of professional backgrounds, who enjoyed the opportunity to learn about international best practices in speech therapy.



(Left to right) Brenda and Abbie during the Speech Therapy Conference

ASHA in Chicago Celebrating the Winds of Change

Catch Leap staff presenting at The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association annual convention Nov. 20-22, 2008 in Chicago.

Visit www.asha.org to learn more and read a welcome letter from Leap Founder and ASHA President Catherine H. Gottfred, Ph.D.



8 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 812
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News and Notes

Save the Date!

This year's Spring Benefit will celebrate Leap Learning Systems' **20th Anniversary!** Our annual event will take place **April 22, 2009**. For tickets, auction donations and sponsorship opportunities

Contact Kathy@leaplearningsystems.org.

The Giving Spree at Water Tower

Shop early this holiday season and benefit Leap! Shoppers at Water Tower Place will receive special incentives from retailers on

Nov. 15th for donating to Leap. For more details visit www.givingspree.com.

New Website Coming Soon

Leap staff has been collaborating with a team of great volunteers from The Taproot Foundation to build a new website. Look for the new site in early December.

Getting Students Ready for Academic Excellence

Leap conducted an all time high of five **Language for Scholars** sessions this summer for students from:

- Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund
- University of Chicago's Collegiate Scholars program, and
- Chicago International Charter School
- Longwood and Northtown campuses

Students from 6th - 12th grades improved their presentation skills and speech goals this summer, gaining the confidence to communicate effectively in a variety of settings.

Contact Kathy@leaplearningsystems.org to bring Language for Scholars to your school or after school program.

Stay in Touch

Join our email distribution list to receive up-to-date communication from Leap Learning Systems. Send an email to Liz@leaplearningsystems.org including "E-mail distribution list" in the subject line to stay in touch.

Donate Today

The programs you read about today are made possible by individual donors like you. Please make or renew your gift to Leap today. Return the enclosed self addressed envelope with your gift to Leap Learning Systems, or call us at (312) 578-1255 to give using a Visa or Mastercard.

Due to the website redesign project we are temporarily unable to accept on-line donations. We apologize for the inconvenience.