



enabling every child to learn



▶ OUR VISION IS TO ENABLE EVERY CHILD TO LEARN TO HIS OR HER FULL POTENTIAL



▶ OUR MISSION IS TO MAKE THE MOVE TO LEARN MOVEMENT SEQUENCES AVAILABLE TO EVERY CHILD IN EVERY CLASSROOM

○ March | ○ Missile | ○ 2009

Missile e-mail

March is already here, isn't it hard to believe!

We send out our warmest wishes to the communities that have been affected by the fires in VIC & the floods in QLD. We send you our love & prayers.

A Story from Louise Weavers in Thailand.

Louise Weavers is doing amazing things in Thailand!

She tells us that she has been working with a 7 year old boy who was struggling with reading & writing & having great difficulty with L/R discrimination & lots of reversals - b/d & q/p. He had been working his way through the Move to Learn sequences & was up to the unilateral crawling. Louise had him do unilateral crawling for 2 weeks, 5 days a week - & he stopped doing reversals!

Way to go Louise, and it's so encouraging to hear of these exciting improvements in a child's learning experience. Thanks for sharing this with us.



Fijian children lining up for rolling

A Visit to Savusavu Special School in 2008 Update from Fiji

One of the highlights of the Fijian seminar was a visit to Savusavu Special School. We've had some exciting recent communication from them, so we thought we'd fill you in.

Over to Barbara:

"Towards the end of our seminar we did a Practical at one of Fiji's Special Schools where we were going to put into practice what we had learned. We went in about 5/6 taxis. The beautiful smiles on the small brown welcoming faces were all lined up before us & we felt like queens. We only visited the special part of the school which consisted of 5 smallish rooms joined at the spine by a longish skinny hall- all as neat & clean as the best of pins."

A Visit to Savusavu Special School in 2008

Update from Fiji continued...

I was first on the program with around 100 children taking their turn rolling down the grass of the playground. Each roll was accompanied by peels of hilarity as they variously rolled crooked or very crooked. No one of course did it "wrong" & they could hardly wait for their turn – very shy & giggly. Those with LD were glaringly crooked & awkward but they were the ones that got the most applause. The teachers had previously been told how this simple test was actually an accurate indication of academic struggle.

We rocked after our rolling - but the biggest success with the audience was the commando crawl races. We could also see why these children were in the special school.

Then we went into the classrooms which had no desks & in each room my attendees checked on a different aspect of pre-academic skills with the children rotating from room to room. If only all assessments could be such fun! In the biggest room we watched the students experience the crawling sequences. We did this so the Fijian teachers could later mimic what we had done, making their own assessments. Quite a few of the students needed someone to move their limbs for them in the right way & sequence – & everyone loved it.

Our Berri, vision therapist working for David Evian in North Sydney, did eye testing while sitting on the floor. A number of children found the required eye movements impossible to do. And the sad thing is that there are no behavioural optometrists working in Savusavu. There is one that may go over regularly from Suva, however. But Berri showed the teachers a few simple tests & some movements to treat them. Just those simple things were going to enable a number of potential readers to greatly improve.

Phonetics was played with in another room & then balancing & simple co-ordination. This was the best day all week for both the school students & us.

Did it make a difference? *The answer has been a resounding 'yes'.*

Six months on, a telephone call to the Head Teacher, Maria Qilatabu, confirmed that the classrooms were quieter & all the students were more involved in their work

The most dramatic change was made by 10 year old Vonovono who was badly disabled & unable to talk. He is not yet making speech sounds, but a big improvement has occurred because for the first time he can stand at assembly with the other children & follow what they do. When I saw him he was constantly moving everywhere but the required place. He can understand & tries to call out. One of the activities he likes best is playing with cars & aeroplanes – one hand on a car & the other hand on another toy at the same time.

Another 10 year old boy wouldn't participate with combined activities with children from the other classes but would remain in his own classroom. He now participates in the combined activities, including sports.



Fijian children rolling



Attendees helping a child with the rolling



Berri doing eye exercises



**Maria Qilatabu
Head Teacher**

A Visit to Savusavu Special School in 2008

Update from Fiji continued...

A 14 year old Indian girl was totally stiff & couldn't join in with school activities & had a lump on her bottom. She has only been at school for a week but has already started to improve.

Manta, a 12 year old girl, came to the school this year & was very stiff & couldn't write. She would only sit & stare into space. She did MtL but also her vision was found to be faulty & she was taken to see an American eye doctor who prescribed glasses for her. She now sees better & is now writing."

We were so excited to hear that.

Also, for these past months, Vandana, Madi Simmons' Fijian 'daughter', has been working at the school as a teachers' aide, relieving Vonovono's mother a little, as well as being a general asset to the school. She reports that she loves her work there & is now beginning to study Early Childhood Education through the University campus at Savusavu. It's wonderful to see the ripples of change resulting from a single visit.

Maria Qilatabu is also very keen to establish a sister school relationship with a Special School, or mainstream school with a special ed. unit, within Australia. She's hoping to be able to for exchange information & perhaps to visit one day. She asked us to pass this information on to you.



**Vandana with Kaya,
Madi Simmons'
daughter**

For Our Contacts In Singapore...



David Evian will be in Singapore from the 14th to the 20th of March for consultation & review. David is a behavioural optometry specialist with a particular interest in children's vision & learning difficulties who has worked across the learning spectrum of conditions ranging from Autism, Asperger's, Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD), partially sighted & many others.

If you would like more information about David's visit to Singapore, contact us here in the office at info@movetolearn.com.au, or you can reach David directly through his website: www.davidevian.com

Gems From The Fiji Seminar

The next gem from our Fijian seminar that we would like to share with you is from

Diana Martin

"I grew up on the northwest coast of Tasmania & attended a small Christian school at Latrobe which uses the Accelerated Christian Education program. This program has been proven to be of great benefit to children with learning difficulties as each child is placed at their own level & can move through the system at a pace that suits them. At the end of my grade 10 year the school asked me to be a teacher's aide in the Grade 1-3 classroom & at the same time work



Gems From The Fiji Seminar continued...

towards my grade 12 certificate. After completing grade 12 I then undertook a two year Certificate IV teacher's aide course.

During the time that I worked as a teacher's aide one of my duties was to work with students that had learning difficulties. I used a remedial program called *Multilit* & was often discouraged that it did not seem to be helping. One boy I worked with showed signs of dyslexia. When I spoke to the teacher about this he said that there was no point taking it any further & getting him assessed because there was nothing that could be done for dyslexia & that I should just keep doing what I could. I found this really disappointing, but I was also sure that there could be something done to help this boy. Not long after the boy left our school & I found out later that he had been diagnosed with dyslexia, had been prescribed Irlen Lenses & was going ahead in leaps & bounds. Since that time I have had a special interest in what could be done to help children with learning difficulties.

After a year's break from study I began a Bachelor of Education (In service) through the University of Tasmania. This allowed me to continue working & also study at the same time which after four & a half years of hard work I have just completed. During the time of study the school was able to get me a limited teacher's registration & I was able to teach in the grade 1-2. Last year the class I had, had a big percentage of children with difficulties & I did not know what I could do to help them. I had heard of the Dore program but knew that was not the answer for the classroom. So I did a Google search & found Move to Learn, ordered School Floors & the DVD & began to use the exercises with my class. I have seen positive results from using it & the kids love exercise time.

The seminar in Fiji was a great time & I found it really useful. It is great to have a network of people all over the place to ask questions of & get support from. It has given me all kinds of questions though as to the future & what I want to do with it. Do I stay teaching & just work with the students of my class & try & get it right through the school? Or do I look at opening up a centre & being able to help more children reach their potential? I have also had a thought of starting up a parent support group for parents of children with learning difficulties.

Thanks, Barbara, for the work you have done, for the Move to Learn program & for the great time in Fiji!"

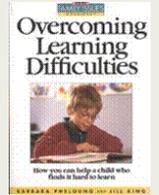
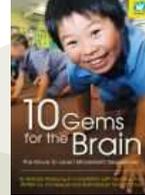
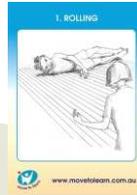
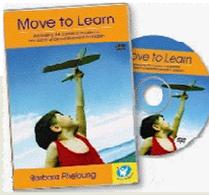
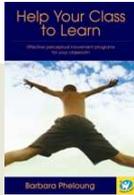
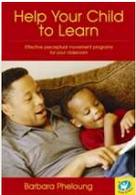


**Good times at the Savusavu
Move to Learn Seminar 2008**



Until next month, keep on rolling!

**From The Move to Learn Team
Barbara, Jini, Stacey, Rick & Nikki & Manny**



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