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Each and Every Child

Quick news for Parents, Teachers and Students

An e-newsletter by the Iowa Department of Education's Bureau of Student and Family Support Services

I just knew it!

What you expect is what you get

You may have heard of a study conducted some years back in which teachers were given a list of students entering their classrooms at the beginning of the school year. On that list, each student was identified as a “poor,” “average” or “excellent” pupil. Unknown to the teachers, the designations were absolutely random. At the end of the year, the grades the students earned were compared to the ratings their teachers had been given earlier.

For the most part, the performance of the students matched the level of academic capability indicated on the list. In other words, students who were assumed to be low performers ended up being low performers – regardless of how they performed in previous years.

This is called a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you expect a certain outcome – voila! – you get a certain outcome. What do you expect from your students and children? The very best? You may just get it!

Floating some ideas

Tips for teachers

- Don't communicate only when something is wrong. Tell the parents when good things happen, too.
- Don't be caught up on things you cannot control, such as school readiness. Focus on what you can change, such as schedules, task demands, instructional routines.
- Ask parents for ways to motivate their child, and get him or her engaged in school.

Tips for parents

- If something has changed in the student's home life, let the teacher know before the student comes to school. The more informed the teacher is, the better the outcome.
- Make sure the teacher knows how to get a hold of you at any time.
- Have homework routines established at home to support school work.

A seminar for you

The Department of Education hosting Pursuing the Promise, a three-day seminar bringing together special educators and parents with state and federal policymakers, school administrators and community partners. It's an opportunity to learn – and contribute – your unique and critical points of view.

Seminar speakers include Jason Glass, director of the Iowa Department of Education, and Martin Ikeda, state director of special education.

Topics to be covered include ensuring special-needs students achieve at high levels and having the students leaving school ready for life.

The seminar will be held in Des Moines June 11-13. More information on the seminar, including programming, registration and accommodations, will be posted soon on our website, <http://educateiowa.gov/>. We also will let you know when more information is available through this newsletter.

And finally...

Do you have new special education teachers on staff? Let us know and we'll sign them up for this newsletter.

Also, Each is a monthly publication. We know some may not be getting this regularly because sometimes their server will see this as junk or spam. If you haven't received this by the first of the month, check your junk and spam files to make sure it hasn't inadvertently been

sent there.