

OAHE SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE

Winter 2017

Child Find: Back to school in the fall brings lots of changes; new students, new classrooms, new teachers, and new expectations. For some children, all of these adjustments come easily; for others academic difficulties can become evident. When a child is consistently not meeting developmental milestones as a preschooler or appropriate curriculum standards in school, specialized instruction –in the form of early childhood education, special education, or speech/language therapy- may be necessary. The first step in the process is identifying children who may need these services.

Anyone can refer a child to special education. Once a referral is received at OSEC or one of its member schools, a team of teachers reviews the student's data such as grades, attendance, and what educational strategies have been tried. At this time the team may decide to try other strategies in the classroom in an effort to provide more educational support for the child or to pursue an evaluation. Parents are informed of the team's decision; if an evaluation is appropriate, their consent is sought. If written consent is granted, the child is tested in the areas of suspected disability. Once the evaluation is complete, parents are provided with a written evaluation report explaining strengths and weaknesses, as well as scores. It is at this point that the parents and teachers determine if special education and/or related services is appropriate.

From the Director's Desk:

We here at OSEC and its member schools are dedicated to meeting the specialized needs of our students. While most referrals are received from teachers or parents, other people in a child's life such as grandparents, extended family members, or pediatricians can refer a child for special education. If you have any concerns about a child, please don't hesitate to call your local school or the Oahe Special Education Cooperative office.

We are here to be of service.

-Mary Austad

Contact Us:

PO Box 97
Java SD 57542-0097
(605) 649-6296

Director:

Mary Austad

Business Manager:

Lori Lutz

Meet OSEC's New Employees:



Kandice Hoffman is a Speech Language Pathologist who is in her 24th year of teaching. She is married to Rod Hoffman; they have three children; one

at SDSU in the Engineering program, and two in high school at Sunshine Bible Academy. During the week, they live in Miller, SD, and enjoy the amenities and ease of a well-run little community. On the weekends and during the summer months, they head to their family farm in Dupree, SD. She is currently working in Wakpala two days a week and considers herself blessed to be working with children and families.



Desirae Stotz was raised in the Buffalo, SD area and attended Harding County School District. She has a certificate in Culinary Arts. Desirae

has two years experience working with the Special Education Department at Harding County School, where she taught a semester for the mobile unit featuring a culinary arts program. She enjoys working with children and watching them develop into their own personalities. In her spare time she likes to read, spend time with family and friends, and play darts. This led her to meet her husband, Shannon, they were married in July 2017. Desirae not only became a wife; but, a step mother to a son, Ryan, and daughter, Breanna. They currently reside in Java, SD.



Teresa Day grew up in the Clark, SD area and is happy to return to South Dakota and make her home in Glenham. When

working with the special needs population, Teresa Day came to see there weren't enough services available for them. This concern drove her decision to return to college to pursue a degree in Psychology at the University of North Carolina and a Master's degree at Kaplan University with a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis which is an evidence based approach for educating special needs populations and dealing with challenging behaviors.

Welcoming a new addition:



Congratulations to Mrs. Samantha Rohrbach, Special Education teacher at Bowdle, on the birth of your daughter, Aubrey. She is a beautiful little girl!