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7. APPENDICES

Appendix I	Details About the Timeline
Appendix II	Centre Publications
Appendix III	Referral Forms
Appendix IV	Sample Student File Summaries

Appendix I.

DETAILS ABOUT THE TIMELINE

The Timeline (Figure 2.) was derived from the study of the literature in order to highlight changes in thinking about students with learning difficulties. The text boxes plotted along the timeline indicate approximately when debate and change about particular aspects took place. It is important to note that, wherever new ideas entered the debate, previous processes and thinking were not generally discarded. Instead, debate sharpened about the conflict or similarities between the new approaches and the old.

The historical development of theories relating to the causes and definitions of learning difficulties is a focus of this study. It was hypothesised that changes in theories and models for learning difficulties would be reflected in practice. Each theory was discussed in the earlier sections of this chapter. There were, however, also political and policy decisions that have affected approaches to supporting students with learning difficulties.

Prior to the 1960s, the medical approach to learning was most common until it was challenged by the psychological process model during the 1960s. Teachers were encouraged to use practices which were designed to "overcome" the processing difficulties within the brain during this decade. In the 1970s in New South Wales support classes were established which had a particular focus on this method while at the same time debate about the efficacy of process training began to appear in journal articles (Weiderholt and Hammill, 1971). Concurrently, standardised assessments, particularly intelligence tests, were used as the basis for placement of students with disabilities in segregated settings. As these debates emerged Lloyd Dunn (1968) published his article questioning segregated placement for the education of students with mild

disabilities and writers such as Evelyn Deno (1970) protested the rigidity of the system which unnecessarily segregated students with disabilities.

During the 1970s behaviourist approaches to teaching were prominent. Specific program materials were developed together with behaviour management techniques (Poplin, 1988). Approaches such as Precision Teaching in which skill levels were particularly targeted and daily counts of speed and accuracy were taken by means of observed "probes" into the student's learning were adopted. In the literature debate for and against behaviourist approaches to teaching such as Precision Teaching continues today (Kessissoglou & Farrell, 1995). Behaviourism in teaching focused the movement towards integration with concepts such as "least restrictive environment", "short term instructional objectives" and "significant discrepancy criteria" (Poplin, 1988).

In the mid 1970s Public Law 94-142 (the Education for All Handicapped Children Act) became US law. This legislation ensured that students with disabilities had access to mainstream education and that the education system established certain processes to ensure that effective education programs were provided (Lewis and Doorlag, 1987 p.21). The decision to support the education of students with disabilities in the United States of America was accompanied by a clearly defined process and mandated IEPs. In 1978 The Warnock Report was published in the United Kingdom (DES, 1978). However, it was not until 1994 that a highly monitored Code of Practice for the education of students with special education needs was established in the UK (Hornby, 1995).

In New South Wales a pilot study of the integration of students with disabilities was begun in 1985. At about the same time concern arose about whether regular education for students was realistic (Stainback & Stainback, Schumaker & Deschler, 1988; Kameenui, 1989). Concurrently the debate continued about whether to teach for underlying deficits or to focus on direct, effective teaching for skills and strategies (Kauffman & Hallahan, 1995; Kavale,

1988; Keogh, 1986; Forness, 1988; Reynolds et al, 1987; O'Shea, O'Shea & Algozzine, 1989).

The worldwide changes to legislation relating to disabilities and discrimination have had effects on the responses of education systems. In NSW a range of options from segregated settings to regular classes for students with disabilities is now offered (NSW Department of Education and Training, 1998a p.1) but students with learning difficulties are enrolled in regular classes. This latter group is the focus of this study.

With regard to assessment practices the Timeline, in effect, shows that standardised assessment has always been paralleled by curriculum-based measures in one form or another. The psychological process model of the 1960s included some examination of basic academic skills because its emphasis was on pre-requisites for academic achievement. In the 1970s, the behaviourist models which focused on skills competence and included daily probes of performance emphasised criterion-referenced tests. The cognitive strategy training model actually began in the mid-1970s but picked up impetus during the 1980s (Flavell, 1975; Mieichenbaum, 1976; Pressley, Goodchild, Fleet & Zajchowski, 1989; Graham, Harris & Reid, 1992; Deshler & Schumaker, 1993) . This approach focuses on teaching students the processes or strategies involved in learning and used assessments of cognitive functioning such as the Woodcock-Johnson Psycho-Educational Battery (Woodcock, 1978).

Advocacy for integration and inclusion in the late 1980s identified the need for a direct focus on curriculum and effective teaching. Schools were urged to cater for the full diversity of students and re-examine their approaches to curriculum, instructional strategies and possible modification of the curriculum in practical and effective ways (Westwood, 1996). This last movement towards classroom support and a focus on teacher delivery moves away from the past special education focus on task analysis, selected strategies and sequential

learning.

The students who are of interest for the purposes of this study are those students determined to have learning difficulties. It would usually be expected in NSW schools that teaching of this group of students would entail maximum time in the classroom with support from the support teacher learning difficulties in the form of collaboration and consultation with the class teacher. Perhaps for some students a withdrawal period would be arranged if a particularly explicit focus was required for a short term on certain skills. The focus on this form of service delivery is on the context and appropriateness of instruction and increasing the opportunity to generalise skills.

The timeline shows that, despite the movement towards normalisation and inclusion, the various strands of the debates about inclusion itself and the approaches to teaching students with disabilities have compounded because initial thinking about the education of students with LD has not disappeared. This may be attributed in part to the philosophical and emotional factors within the special education movement itself. Special education began as a charitable mission and continues today under the auspices of humanitarian and social justice movements. However, the central paradox of special education continues to be evident in the literature and policies: (1) difficult to teach students require specialist teaching and yet (2) these students learn in much the same way as other children and special education expertise can be spread easily amongst subject and class teachers (Dumas, 1983; Dyson, 1990).

This study is an examination of the effects of the debate about specialist teaching and effective teaching on the IEP recommendations and programs devised for students with learning difficulties by professionals at one centre between 1971 and 1995.

Appendix II. Centre Publications

1. *On the Delivery of Special Education Services (at the centre) (1976)*
2. *Early Intervention Programming (1976)*
3. *Language Arts: A Developmental Process (1977)*
4. *A Family Centred Approach to Increasing the Communication Skills of Children displaying Maladaptive Dependency Patterns (1977)*
5. *Delivering Special Education Services to Children with Academic, Communication, Developmental and Behavioural Difficulties (1977)*
6. *The Role of the Clinic in the Remediation of Learning Difficulties (1977)*
7. *An Approach to the Management of Problems in Children (1977)*
8. *1979: International Year of the Child: Programming for the Future Needs of the Special Child (1979)*
9. *A Review of the Role and Operation of the.....Centre: implications for planning future organizational structure and service delivery (1980)*
10. *Final Report to The Australian Schools Commission (1980)*
11. *An Individualised Reading Instruction Program: In Selected.....Public Schools (1981)*
12. *Special Education at a Distance (1981)*
13. *Identifying the Training Needs of Staff Working in Community Residences for Developmentally Disabled Persons (1981)*

14. *Articulation Disorders* (1981)
15. *A Data Based Communication Assessment Format for Children* (1981)
Utilization of Evaluation Data (1981)
16. *Evaluation of a L.A.R.S.P. Workshop* (1981)
17. *Interdisciplinary Team Functioning* (1983)
18. *Writing Reports for Children: What Do the Children Think?* (1983)
19. *The Role of Assessment Centres Over the Next Five Years* (1984)
20. *Factors Influencing the Quality of the Oral Language Class: Perceptions of*
O.L. Teachers and Associated Support Personnel (1985)
21. *O.L. Teachers and Associated Support Personnel* (1985)
22. *The Role of the Resource Teacher in a Multidisciplinary Centre: Perceptions*
of Counsellors, Special Educators, and Executive Staff (1985)
23. *Pilot Program for Pupil Intergration: A Transdisciplinary Approach* (1986)
24. *Resourcefulness in Special Education* Conference Proceedings (1986)
25. *Programming and Strategies for Students with Learning Difficulties/Special*
Needs in the Regular Classroom (1988)
26. *Teachers' Perceptions of Individualised Education Plans* (1988)

Appendix III.

REFERRAL FORMS

1. Identification

Surname: _____ Given Names: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Sex: _____
Parent(s)/Guardian: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____ Telephone: () _____

2. School

Name: _____ Cluster (state): _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____ Telephone: () _____
Teacher: _____ Year: _____
Support Teacher: _____
Counsellor/ e Contact: _____

3. Referral Information

Person(s) originating referral: _____
Do parents support this referral?: _____

Primary reasons for referral: _____

Associated Problems: (Please tick appropriate boxes)

academic	behaviour	speech/language	social	physical
reading <input type="checkbox"/>	distractible <input type="checkbox"/>	understanding <input type="checkbox"/>	peers <input type="checkbox"/>	balance <input type="checkbox"/>
spelling <input type="checkbox"/>	disruptive <input type="checkbox"/>	social use <input type="checkbox"/>	siblings <input type="checkbox"/>	co-ordination <input type="checkbox"/>
story writing <input type="checkbox"/>	aggressive <input type="checkbox"/>	vocabulary <input type="checkbox"/>	parents <input type="checkbox"/>	handwriting <input type="checkbox"/>
handwriting <input type="checkbox"/>	anxious <input type="checkbox"/>	syntax <input type="checkbox"/>	adults <input type="checkbox"/>	vision <input type="checkbox"/>
mathematics <input type="checkbox"/>	withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/>	articulation <input type="checkbox"/>	temperament <input type="checkbox"/>	hearing <input type="checkbox"/>

What observations can you make that may help us understand the child?
(Indicate strengths and interests, as well as problem areas.)

4. Assessments

Please state the results of assessments completed.

Test Used	Date	Results	Tester

5. School History (Please indicate any repetitions)

Grade	Absences	School Attended
K		
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Grade	Absences	School Attended
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

6. School-Based Intervention

(To be completed by Class Teacher and/or Support Teacher)

Intervention to Date	Dates	Learning Areas
Adaptation of Regular Curriculum		
Support Teacher Program		
Special Class Placement		
Consultation/Agencies		

7. School Resources

Personnel	Yes/No	Materials (e.g. Reading Rigby)
Support Teacher (LD)		
Special Class Options		
Voluntary Help		
Other		
Class Teacher's Release Time		

Note: It is understood that action resulting from this referral will require the co-operation of school staff in planning and implementing a program for the child.

Signatures: ..

Principal: _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Date: _____

Support Teacher: _____

Date: _____

1. Family Information

Child's Surname: _____ Given Names: _____
 Date of Birth: _____ Town of Birth: _____ Sex: _____
 Home Address: _____ Town: _____ Postcode: _____
 Telephone: () _____
 Mother's Name: _____ Father's Name: _____
 Occupation: _____ Occupation: _____

Child's Brothers and Sisters:

Name	Present Age

Child's Doctor: _____ Telephone: _____
 Address: _____ Town: _____ Postcode: _____
 School: _____ Town: _____
 Year: _____ Teacher: _____ Principal: _____

2. Reason for Referral (Please complete all of the following items)

Who referred your child? _____

What is it about your child's school progress which concerns you? _____

When was the problem first noticed? _____

By whom? _____

Who have you seen about the problem and what have they had to say? (Attach available reports.)

What do you think is the cause? _____

3. Medical History

Note any problems or illnesses associated with the pregnancy or early development: _____

Please comment on the state of your child's physical health: _____

N.B. It is important that we have recent reports on your child's hearing and vision when you visit the Centre. Please attach copies of reports of tests carried out within the last 6 months, or arrange for tests to be done and results forwarded to us as soon as possible.

4. Development

Describe any areas in which your child has been slow to develop skills (for example, walking, using first words or sentences, tying shoelaces.)

5. Behaviour

Describe any of your child's behaviours which concern you. _____

6. Language

Describe your child's development of language: _____

Describe any concerns you have had about the way your child understands language: _____

Describe any concerns you have had about the way your child communicates with others: _____

7. Movement

Describe any problems your child has in regard to physical activities involving *gross motor skills* (such as running, hopping, ball skills, riding a bike etc.) and/or *fine motor skills* (drawing, colouring in, cutting handwriting etc.)

If you would like to add anything else please do so. _____

Note: I understand that parents may be required to be actively involved in their child's program.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Appendix IV.

SAMPLE STUDENT FILE SUMMARIES

No.37

Year: 1989

Age: 10

Male

School:

Reasons for Referral: academic

Referred by: school

Assessments: 23.10.89 school questionnaire, parent questionnaire, TOWL-2, Macquarie University Years 5 and 6 Maths Test, Woodcocks Reading Mastery Tests Revised Form G, Lindamood Auditory comprehension Test form B, Westwood Spelling Test, diagnostic Spelling Test (Vincent & claydon).
Woodcock results: word identification PR 83, word attack PR 88, word comprehension PR 90, passage comprehension PR 71

Draft academic report 24.10.89 reading and spelling seem good for age, auditory conceptualisation good, in writing misspells words, uses poor grammar, short and sparse (indicates he is uninterested/uncomfortable with written expression or has had very little practice. Poor mathematics result. Achievement seems directly related to interests.

Recommendations:

General remedial maths program

More practice in written expression with emphasis on grammar and punctuation

Investigate relationship between interests and achievement

22.11.89 assessments: MUMA, clinical Evaluation of Language Functions, , Test of Problem Solving by speech pathologist - shows competency in language comprehension, expressive language but showed some signs of dysfluency (initial sound, syllable, whole word, part word and phrase recognition). Does have difficulty changing strategies when a new factor is introduced (difficulty in "determining solutions and avoiding problems".
Recommendations: program encompassing divergent thinking, hypothesis testing, determining solutions and strategies to avoid problems.

23.10.89 OT assessment - Motor Free Visual Perception Test, Bruninks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency, Handwriting Assessment - pen grasp needs attention, writing posture, write slowly and neatly

Report 12.12.89 STLD

Visual-motor skills OK but handwriting needs improvement probably due to his tendency to be impulsive and not to plan his motor organisation when doing a task. Oral language is good but has difficulties changing strategies when a new factor is introduced, refusal to take risks. Auditory skills OK, spelling grade appropriate, low in mathematics.

Recommendations "high level of ability and mastery of most language skills seem to indicate a very bright academic future for him", but has some specific deficits.

No.40

Year: 1990

Age: 7

Male

School:

Reasons for Referral: academic

Referred by: parents

Assessments: letter from ENT specialist (indicating that audio-gram Ok but central auditory tests show a central auditory perception problem), physiotherapist report, orthoptist report, school questionnaire, parent questionnaire, Lindamood Auditory Comprehension Test, Woodcock Reading Mastery Test-Revised Form G (visual-auditory AE 7.2, letter identification AE 6.9, word identification AE 7.0, word attack AE 7.0, word comprehension AE 7.0, passage comprehension AE 6.3), Boehm Form A Bks 1, 2, Westwood Spelling Test, Macquarie University Year 1 Maths Test, Speech Pathologist report

Report 1.5.90 by STLD

Woodcock Test show he meets expectations for age. Lindamood indicates problems in auditory modes, especially sequencing and conceptualisation but seems to have compensated for these. Good knowledge of mathematics. Some difficulty in understanding Boehm concepts. Poor spelling.

Recommendations:

The school continue current program

That future teachers be sensitive to his physical and academic difficulties - a failure to address problems in these areas of deficiency may become a stumbling block, at some point, in future academic and developmental milestones

A discussion of the report to be undertaken at school.

29.6.90 meeting agreed to close case, the school is adequately catering for his needs.