



DIBELS® newsletter

Volume 1 ■ No. 1

September ■ 2007

Seen & Heard

► *New position papers were posted for free download on the DMG website. They include: "The Use of DIBELS for Diverse Learners," and "DIBELS Myths and Facts." To access the papers log on to www.dibels.org and click on the Publications and Downloads tab.*

► *DMG Senior Research Scientist Kelli D. Cummings attended the 2007 Summer Institute on Student Progress Monitoring in Nashville, Tennessee on July 10th and 11th to give her poster presentation, "Progress Monitoring and Response to Intervention in an Outcomes-Driven Model." The presentation focused on the use of DIBELS in an RtI model to maximize learning for all students. To receive a copy of the presentation handout, email info@dibels.org.*

Upcoming Events

► **Release of DIBELS 6th—revised Braille Materials**

September 20, 2007 • For ordering information email info@dibels.org



► **DIBELS Training Institute**

October 8 – 11, 2007 • Denver, CO
Log on to www.dibels.org for more info or to register.

DIBELS Research
DIBELS Development
DIBELS Training



DMG Marks the 4th Anniversary of its DIBELS® Training Institutes

DMG presented its annual DIBELS Training Institute in Eugene, Oregon in June of 2007, marking the 4th anniversary of offering the official training on DIBELS.

The institute was presented by Ruth Kaminski and Roland H. Good, III, the authors of DIBELS and the founders of DMG. Participants came from 20 different states and American Samoa and represented a wide range of educational professionals.

The gathering also included the first ever IDEL Training Institute. IDEL, the Indicadores Dinámicos del Éxito en la Lectura, is the recently published Spanish reinvention of DIBELS. IDEL author Doris Baker and DMG Senior Research Scientist Kelli Cummings presented on using IDEL in a bilingual model of education for students whose native language is Spanish or who are learning to read in Spanish. The group included representatives from ten different districts and organizations from across the United States.

One district that had representatives at both DIBELS and IDEL Institutes was the Salem-Keizer School District in Oregon, whose participants dubbed themselves the "DIBELS Divas." The district was using DIBELS in six schools in the fall of 2006 and decided to expand its DIBELS efforts to include more schools and incorporate




Salem-Keizer School District DIBELS Divas with the DIBELS/IDEL Institute Presenters at the 2007 Eugene Training Institute. From left to right: Doris Baker, Sandy Clancy, Bonnie Dietrich, Lilia Montemayor, Ruth Kaminski, Roland H. Good, III, Lynn Marks, Heidi Blakley, and Irma Decker.

the IDEL assessments for the 2007-2008 school year by sending six representatives to the Eugene Institute. Salem-Keizer's Title I Program Assistant Lynn Marks said, "[We] enjoyed having the opportunity to hear about all the latest DIBELS research, and especially having the opportunity to have our questions answered directly by Dr. Good and Dr. Kaminski!"

Since the first DIBELS Training Institute in Eugene in the summer of 2004 more than 2,200 educational professionals have attended DMG's DIBELS Training Institutes. For more information or to register for the upcoming institute in Denver, CO, log on to DMG's website, www.dibels.org. ■

NEW DIBELS® Stopwatches are here!



DMG has spent the last year designing an improved version of the official DIBELS stopwatch and now the new models have arrived! The new DIBELS stopwatch features both count-up and count-down options as well as a subtle, single-tone beep at the end of one minute using the count-down option. It also has the same great features of the original DIBELS stopwatch: it's lightweight, it easily attaches to a clipboard, and it's completely silent other than the count-down beep. For more information or to place an order log on to DMG's website, www.dibels.org.

in focus: IDEL® Research in Mexico

The research behind IDEL, the Spanish version of DIBELS, will greatly expand in the fall of 2007. After nearly five years of IDEL research in U.S. schools, the utility of the literacy assessment series will be tested on the international Spanish-speaking community.

The study will take place in Guanajuato, Mexico, and will be conducted by DMG's director of IDEL Research, Doris Luft Baker. Also helping to oversee the project will be Raquel Ibarra Barrientos from the Guanajuato School System.

Over 400 students will participate in the longitudinal study, which will take place throughout the 2007-2008 school year. The IDEL probes will be administered and scored by students from the Pedagogical University of Guanajuato.



DMG Senior Research Scientist Kelli D. Cummings conducts a kindergarten IDEL assessment.

The purpose of the study will be to examine the IDEL Benchmark cut points to see if the established goals for early literacy skills in Spanish hold the same predictive validity for students outside of the U.S. Baker said, "For schools in the U.S. whose objective is to teach students how to read fluently in Spanish, it is extremely important that our goals for reading success are held up to an international stan-

dard." Baker added, "We are very excited about being able to share our knowledge and expertise in assessment with another country interested in developing a research-based, school-wide model to improve reading outcomes." Continued research in U.S. schools will also play an important part in the development of IDEL.

To receive a copy of the current IDEL Technical Report, email info@dibels.org. ■

Tip of the Day

This DIBELS tip of the day comes from Heather Yardley, a Reading Coach for Ontario School District in Ontario, Oregon. She suggests listing any relevant information that may affect assessment performance for each student on the front of his/her DIBELS booklet. This may include: if a child wears glasses or contacts, if s/he needs to be tested in a quiet environment, and if there are any DIBELS-approved accommodations necessary to get an accurate score from the child, such as using color overlays or the large print version of DIBELS available from <http://dibels.uoregon.edu/>. While this practice means needing to take extra care in maintaining confidentiality, Yardley says it is well worth it when using a team-based approach to assessing where an examiner may have never worked with a child previously. "You're ensuring that each child is getting the best opportunity to be their best," said Yardley, "because something like not having a pair of glasses can make all the difference in [a child's] score."

DIBELS People: Joshua Wallin

Most DIBELS users know Josh Wallin from his role as the System Administrator of the DIBELS Data System at the University of Oregon. For years Josh served as the primary contact for all DIBELS-related questions sent to the University.



Josh began his work at the University of Oregon as a Computer Science student, working for the Institute for the Development of Educational Achievement (IDEA) at the College of Education. After graduation

he remained at IDEA, helping to manage data for research projects which used DIBELS.

In the spring of 2000, Josh began developing the DIBELS Data System, based on reports designed by Dr.

Roland Good. During the first year the Data System was available to schools, Josh was responsible for all of the programming and customer support. Josh spent the following six years working with the Data System. For the first several years, the number of schools using the system more than doubled each year. By the 2006-2007 school year more than 13,000 schools were using the Data System.

In the fall of 2006, Josh changed his involvement in

DIBELS to become the Data Manager and Technical Specialist for Dynamic Measurement Group, working with DIBELS research and development. He continues his customer relations role by answering DIBELS-related questions sent to DMG's support email (info@dibels.org). He has also been instrumental in the development of DIBELS Math as well as the coordination of the new version of DIBELS, DIBELS 2008, scheduled to be released for the 2008-2009 school year.