DAY 1 • Opening General Session • 8:30 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.

“Practicing What We Preach! Working Smarter, Not Harder as an Occupational Therapist or OT Assistant in Schools!”

– Tere Bowen-Irish

Reduce the stress in your busy life as an OT while practicing the strategies you preach to your students! OTs tend to preach a well-balanced life for their students helping them to learn to handle the pressures, demands and expectations of school. How often are you actually practicing those same skills you teach? Come and explore how you can balance your OT responsibilities, feel more in control of your caseload and reduce your stress. Remember why you got into school-based practice and what you can do to work smarter, not harder and gain more satisfaction from your job.

DAY 1 • MORNING SESSIONS

MINNEAPOLIS – Monday, July 18, 2011 • CHICAGO – Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Choose ONE Full Morning Session OR TWO 70-Minute Sessions

9:15 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. • Full Morning Session

☐ A-1: From Disorganized to Organized! How Executive Function Impacts Our Students – Gloria Lucker
Oh, those disorganized students who just can’t get it together! Learn how to identify levels of dysfunction and how to observe students who are having difficulty in the classroom. Discover remedial techniques and practical strategies to assist students so they can begin to achieve success in the classroom.

Break • 10:45 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

9:15 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. • First 70-Minute Morning Sessions

CHOOSE ONE: A-2 or A-3

Visual perceptual skills can play a vital role in students’ ability to read, write, work independently, and remember visual information. This session will help you assess your students’ visual abilities in the areas of figure ground, visual spatial, visual memory, visual sequential memory, visual discrimination, form constancy, and visual closure and how you can increase these skills in order to help students be more successful in their learning. These interventions may also be applied in the RTI framework.

☐ A-3: So Many Students, So Little Time! Practical Ideas for Fitting it All In! – Donna Sweeney
Our caseloads are growing but our time isn’t! How can you fit it all in? This session will provide you with numerous ideas and tips for building and running a smoother schedule that will help you feel less stressed and more confident in your role. Learn how to work smarter, not harder and feel more successful at the end of the day.

Break • 10:25 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

10:45 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. • Second 70-Minute Morning Sessions

CHOOSE ONE: A-4 or A-5

☐ A-4: Your Own Modification and Accommodation “Bag of Tricks” Just for OTs to Share with Teachers – Donna Sweeney
How can you help your teachers make simple, realistic and high impact modifications and accommodations in their classroom? Come to this strategy-packed session and learn numerous ideas you can add to your bag of tricks. You will learn creative accommodations in math, reading and writing to support students in the classroom along with ways to help your teachers make modifications on their own. Discover how you can share your unique expertise with teachers to have a direct, positive impact on student learning!

☐ A-5: Practical Strategies to Facilitate Handwriting without Being the Handwriting Teacher! – Tere Bowen-Irish
Do you notice that students are having difficulty with automaticity in writing? Do you feel frustrated that each school does something different for handwriting? Are you the handwriting teacher? NOT! Come learn the essentials of facilitating handwriting skills to help promote consistent teaching, language, modeling, and application. We will discuss how to enhance upper extremity strength, hand manipulation and refined grasp patterns to improve handwriting.

11:55 a.m. – 1:05 p.m. • Lunch break (on your own) • A great time to network with colleagues!
# DAY 1 • AFTERNOON SESSIONS

**MINNEAPOLIS** – Monday, July 18, 2011 • **CHICAGO** – Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Choose **ONE** Full Afternoon Session OR **TWO** 70-Minute Sessions

## 1:05 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. • Full Afternoon Session

- **B-1**: Literature-Based Activities to Increase Sensory Integration for All Children – Donna Sweeney
  Discover dozens of ideas and activities to promote sensory integration in the classroom that all students will benefit from and enjoy. Donna will share with you student-proven, literature-based activities that she has used with students to reduce the barriers that can limit their success. You will learn practical strategies using literature to help students develop and strengthen their literacy development while addressing sensory integration for all students. Teachers will love these strategies too!
  Break • 1:55 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

## 1:05 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. • First 70-Minute Afternoon Sessions

**CHOOSE ONE: B-2 or B-3**

- **B-2**: Response to Intervention (RTI) – What’s It All About? – Gloria Lucker
  What is the RTI model? What are the three tiers of intervention? How does the RTI team develop strategies for successful intervention? What are early intervening services? What are the pre-referral strategies you can use? We will answer these questions and more in this session designed to give you a better understanding of how RTI impacts the schools you serve. You will leave with strategies and ideas to use in your setting.
  Break • 2:15 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.

- **B-3**: Active, Brain-Based Learning Strategies You Can Use to Improve Student Alertness and Attention – Tere Bowen-Irish
  As OTs, we know how exercise, movement and physical activity can increase focus and concentration in our students. Come and learn a menu of fun yet effective exercises that you can easily teach students and model for teachers that will improve alertness and retention of material. “Haunt” your caseload in your absence by helping teachers use these strategies throughout their day to reinforce concepts and help students better retain important information. You won’t want to miss this exciting session filled with practical ideas you can use and share the very first day of school!
  Break • 2:15 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.

## 2:35 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. • Second 70-Minute Afternoon Sessions

**CHOOSE ONE: B-4 or B-5**

- **B-4**: Building a Strong Foundation in Your Preschool Program: Catch them Before They Start to Fall Behind – Tere Bowen-Irish
  Every fall, preschool teachers, parents and students walk into classrooms with certain expectations. Often they may be surprised, amused, overwhelmed, or even disappointed. How can you influence the classroom when you are not there to promote developmental postures, strength, endurance, and tracking to really make a difference in young students’ learning and development? What can you put in place to help teachers enhance development as well as cover the required standards?
  In this strategy-packed session you will learn how to influence teachers and tweak the preschool environment just enough to help create successful experiences for every student!

- **B-5**: Train the Teachers! Quick and Informative In-Service Ideas You Won’t Want to Miss! – Gloria Lucker
  Do you want to have a bigger impact in your schools? Learn how to share your expertise with ideas for informative, practical training sessions to help teachers implement strategies from occupational therapy in their classrooms. How to communicate effectively with teachers and impress them with your knowledge and practical ideas!

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You’ll receive an extensive resource handbook for ALL sessions – even those you don’t attend
C-1: Practical Strategies to Jumpstart Literacy within the General Education Classroom – Tere Bowen-Irish
Take your occupational therapy skills into the literacy block to teach students (and teachers) important strategies that will actually strengthen students’ visualization skills, writing abilities, sequencing, story retelling, and other key literacy skills. Explore the multiple intelligence approach and learn techniques and strategies you can use in the classroom where all students will benefit.

Break • 10:05 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.

C-2: Practical Strategies and Activities to Improve Primitive Reflex Integration – Gloria Lucker
How does non-integration of primitive reflexes impact student performance? Students who fail to make progress in fine motor goals may be “stuck” with inefficient reflex patterns. Learn how to identify students with delays in reflex integration and discover activities to assist in reflex integration. Take away practical ideas, strategies and activities you can use immediately!

Break • 9:45 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.

C-3: Practical Strategies for Including Students with Multiple Challenges – Donna Sweeney
Increase your skills in working with students with multiple challenges in the classroom and school setting. You will learn student- and teacher-friendly strategies to successfully include these students while creating a classroom and school environment of understanding and friendship. With bullying and teasing on the rise, it is imperative that we help students and teachers embrace differences and challenges and assist special needs’ students to become self-advocates with a voice of their own.

C-4: Communicating and Marketing Your Ideas and Strategies to Teachers and Administrators – Donna Sweeney
Come to this session and discover strategies that will help you get your staff to buy into and use OT techniques for a getter impact. Donna will share effective communication tips for optimal support and carryover of treatment strategies. Learn how to market your OT ideas so students will benefit when you’re not there!

C-5: Kindergarten Developmental Skills Groups: Practical Strategies to Intervene Early – Gloria Lucker
What can we do in kindergarten to make the biggest impact before students start to fall behind? Come and discover a student-proven, level one RTI program that really works. In this hands-on, interactive session, you will experience activities and gain communication strategies that will enable you to introduce the program to teachers and administrators, along with ways to gain evidence of effectiveness. Learn how kindergarten developmental skills groups can make a difference in your schools.
12:35 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. • First 75–Minute Afternoon Sessions

CHOOSE ONE: D-1, D-2 or D-3

- **D-1: Implementing Sensory Programs Into the Classroom** – Gloria Lucker
  Having difficulty getting teachers to accept seat cushions, weighted vests, etc.? Help those sensory students develop self-management skills so teachers see the value and ease of use. Discover sensory stories and develop individualized programs for students with sensory strategies in the classroom for all students.

- **D-2: One Teacher, One Therapist, 25+ Students! All the Possibilities for Collaboration to Work Smarter, Not Harder** – Tere Bowen-Irish
  Class sizes are large, caseloads are growing and we are all feeling spread too thin. We know in order for students with IEP’s to improve their skill sets many accommodations need to be in place. In this session we will discover what real collaboration could be between teachers and therapists and how we can begin or strengthen our own collaboration. While teachers bring content expertise, we bring our unique accommodation/modification skills and together we can work smarter for the students. Come problem solve, plan and prepare ways of integrating, collaborating and lightening the load for all!

- **D-3: Classroom-Friendly, Circle-Time Activities You Can Use Immediately** – Donna Sweeney
  Increase your toolbox of strategies and activities you can use in the general education classroom immediately with the whole class. You will discover numerous whole group interventions to push your services into the classroom for greater impact and are fun for everyone! Plus, by using these circle-time games and activities, you are modeling for your teachers so they can use them when you’re not there! You won’t want to miss this hands-on session!

Break • 1:50 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.

2:05 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. • Second 75–Minute Afternoon Sessions

CHOOSE ONE: D-4, D-5 or D-6

- **D-4: The Occupational Therapist’s Role in Response to Intervention** – Gloria Lucker
  How does occupational therapy fit into the RTI system of intervention? Explore the expanded roles for occupational therapists as well as techniques for implementation to ensure participation on the RTI team. Discover opportunities to develop early intervening services and support services in the general education classroom that can benefit all students!

- **D-5: Practical Tips and Ideas for Working With Teachers in the Classroom** – Donna Sweeney
  How can you bring your knowledge and expertise to teachers to help them better meet the needs of students, even when you’re not there? Increase your skills for working and collaborating with teachers to strengthen students’ opportunities and chances for success in the general education classroom. You will discover practical tips and techniques, share and learn ideas with other occupational therapists and OT assistants, and leave with numerous ideas for influencing the teachers in your schools.

- **D-6: Successfully Using Drive Thru Menus: How to Build Attention and Strength in Your Students** – Tere Bowen-Irish
  Do your teachers wonder about students who have a hard time sitting still, chew their pencils or sleeves, talk non-stop, or have difficulty with their pencil grip, writing, or cutting? Learn quick-and-easy interventions to share with teachers. The Attention Menu is not meant to replace a sensory diet, but to provide a means to accommodate a student throughout the day in the least restrictive environment of the classroom. The Strength Menu will help students build upper extremity strength, therefore improving fine motor skills and coordination. Let’s teach our educators the importance of movement and its influence on learning.

**Can’t Attend?**

A related BER seminar, *Practical Strategies to Help Occupational Therapists Support Students and Become Integral School Team Members*, presented by Occupational Therapy expert Tere Bowen-Irish, is available on compact discs with a comprehensive resource handbook at a cost of $95.00 plus $9.00 shipping and handling. To order, call toll-free 1-800-735-3503 (Stock #A-XOX-1571) or use the order form on the back page.

PLEASE NOTE: AOTA CEUs are not available with audio seminar programs.