

February/March
2008

F.O.C.U.S. Newsletter

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Next Members' Meeting

April 8, 2008
10:00 – 12:00
at the F.O.C.U.S. Centre

&

April 17, 2008
7:00-9:00pm
with Dr. Vicki Ooi
for Chinese Speakers
at the F.O.C.U.S. Centre

Focus on Children's Understanding in School

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR HELPING US MAKE OUR FIRST F.O.C.U.S. CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS!!

Highlights from February & March Members' Meeting

It was wonderful to welcome so many new and old members to both our February and March meetings. In February, many parents brought up the issue of dual languages and in some cases three languages and the effect upon their children who learn differently due to learning and/or attentional disorders. Research states that most learners experiencing difficulty with foreign language learning have problems with

"phonological awareness" in their native language. Instruction in phonological skills, therefore, needs to be explicit and systematic in order for students to improve.

Summer programs and camps (see camp tips on next page) were discussed further during the March meeting. The F.O.C.U.S. Office does have files of camp programs both locally and abroad for members to look through. There are also specific camps for children with

learning and/or attentional needs, academic camps as well as adventure-type camps. Please feel free to stop by the Office to have a look.

***If you are interested in becoming a member of the Executive Committee, please let us know. We would welcome dedicated people who are committed to improving the lives of children with learning and attentional issues.**

F.O.C.U.S. Conference: February 29th-March 1st 2008

What a wonderful first F.O.C.U.S. Conference! We look forward to our continued conversations with you all at our next meetings. For those that were unable to attend, please know that you can still join the Virtual Conference (www.focus-vs.com) that will be up and running over the next

several months. Among the many services, the Virtual Conference includes audio/visual recordings, Speaker handouts and access to professionally led discussion forums.

If were unable to pick up the following books at the Conference, they are on

sale at the F.O.C.U.S. Office:

Attention Deficit Disorder
By Dr. Thomas E. Brown (\$170)

Overcoming Dyslexia
By Dr. Sally Shaywitz (\$128)

Upcoming Events

*F.O.C.U.S. April Meeting for Chinese Parents: Dr. Vicki Ooi, Date: April 17th, Time: 7:00-9:00pm

*Teacher Training at Yew Chung International School April 26th

*April 8th 3:00-5:00 & April 10th 7:30-9:30: Douglas Doman from the Institutes For the Achievement of Human Potential will lecture about

Smart Kids' Club, 19F/Causeway Bay Plaza II

*Education Expo. May 17th & 18th: Hong Kong Convention Centre

F.O.C.U.S. Centre

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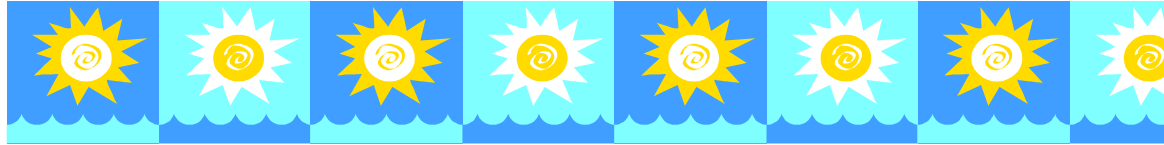
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You can still
register for the
F.O.C.U.S. Virtual
Conference

www.focus-vs.com

**Summer Camp Considerations**

1. Type of program
 - day/overnight
 - regular/needs based
 - recreational/educational
2. Size
 - large or small groups
3. Location and facilities
 - urban/suburban/rural
 - cabins/camping
 - eating, bathing & medical facilities
4. Staff
 - Counselor:camper ratio
 - Ages/educational backgrounds
 - Medical training
 - Staff supervision
5. Camp policies
 - Family communication
 - Discipline
 - Menus
 - Self-esteem
 - Peer relationships

* A Summer Camp list will be emailed to you soon!