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Meet Our Newest RC

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The team at Sign2Me would like to welcome Ashlea Weber, our newest Regional Coordinator. Ashlea has been a Sign2Me Instructor since 2005 and is very proud of it!!

Ashlea graduated from George Brown College in the summer of 2002 with a diploma in Early Childhood Education. She is completely bilingual in English and

Dear Bob,

The team at Sign2Me hopes that you are enjoying our Insight newsletters. Many of you have given some great positive feedback that you are enjoying hearing from us on a regular basis, so we want to encourage you to participate in our articles.

Please feel free to send me a suggestion on a particular topic, or just send in your article you wish for us to include. This is your newsletter and we want to make sure the content is relevant to you. We also will try to include appropriate information for our international friends too, so please feel free to share.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marilyn'.

Marilyn Prevatte
Director, Sign2Me Instructors' Network

Early Childhood Education

Many of you (63%) work in the Early Childhood market, which means you are either holding classes at a childcare center, or provide in-services. We have several recommendations for you this month you might find interesting.



First, if you haven't had the opportunity to sign-up for a very informative newsletter, you should do so today. **ExchangeEveryDay** is the official electronic newsletter for ChildcareExchange.com and can provide you with updated information on a daily basis. It's easy to subscribe and it's

French, and we hear she is very open, friendly and approachable. Ashlea loves to share her knowledge and learn new things every day. With her vast experience working in retail and customer service, working for large companies as well as small businesses it has allowed her to see how many different businesses use their resources, staff and skills.

Ashlea has built her business, SmallTalk Academy in Ontario, Canada into a full time job, having taught at group homes, school and child care centres. Please welcome Ashlea as the new Eastern Canada Regional Coordinator and visit her [website](#) and learn more about her.

New Regional Alignment

As mentioned in a previous e-mail this month, Sign2Me has restructured some of our U.S. and worldwide Regions. To view the map, please [click here](#) because we now posting the map of the Sign2Me Regions on our website under the Instructors' Network menu.

Note that you will find some states and countries have been realigned, but if you are in Canada or the

free. [Click here](#) to sign-up. Also note that ExchangeEveryDay is international. You will not only find content specific to the United States, they also write articles on early childhood in other countries including posting conferences worldwide - [click here](#).

On February 17th the subject was on the Child Care Stimulus Debate in the US. The details can be found by [clicking here](#), and you will be happy to hear that over \$2.1 Billion dollars has been allotted for Head Start programs alone.

Second; one way you can take advantage of the stimulus package yourself here in the US is to become an approved trainer for your states CCR&R training program. Some places it is called STARS, in my state it is called S*CCEEDDS but find your local CCR&R office and become an approved trainer. You will then be able to list your in-service classes, which will be publicized to all registered childcare centers in your state and you enjoy many of the benefits being a CCR&R teacher. For more information [click here](#). Once you have become an approved trainer please let Sign2Me know because we are gathering a database of Sign2Me Instructors who are registered in their states.

Last, but not least if you haven't done so already, you might consider reading these recommended books:

- Dancing with Words' ~Marilyn Daniels
- Rethinking the Brain ~R. Shore
- Bright from the Start' ~ Jill Stamm

And the Survey Says...

Our first Sign2Me Health-Checkup Survey did not product too many surprising results. We had 112 responses, which is about 17% of the network.

How do you rate Sign2Me's overall network support?
In order from left to right; Well Below Average, Below Average, Average, Above Average, and Well Above Average:

Marketing Materials	7%	15%	41%	29%	8%
Keeping Instutors updated	5%	16%	41%	32%	5%
Products	4%	4%	27%	52%	14%
Product cost	3%	6%	57%	30%	4%
Lesson plans	4%	19%	37%	36%	4%

What do you like best about being a Sign2Me Instructor?
Check all that apply.

Sign2Me only uses ASL	91%
Sign2Me products	51%
Instructor's Network support	47%

United Kingdom the territories have stayed the same. Also, just to let you know, we now send this map along with every order shipped from Sign2Me to help our customers find classes.

Contact Us

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98275

Ability to keep my own company name 68%
Instructor's marketing materials 22%
Lesson plans 41%
Extra question 13%

Do you present to the Early Childhood Education Market?

Yes 63%
No 9%
I would like to 27%

Would you be interested in paying a small monthly membership fee to have additional benefits from Sign2Me?

Yes 5%
No 28%
I need more information 65%

What would you like changed about the support you receive from Sign2Me? Check all that apply.

More communication 37%
More support with marketing ideas 56%
Better and more lesson plans with activities 75%
More products 38%
New marketing opportunities 54%
Extra question 23%

Are you satisfied with the level of support you receive from your Regional Coordinator?

Yes 75%
No 14%
I need and want more support 10%
I would prefer someone not in my region 0%

What additional support/services would you like to see from Sign2Me? Check all that apply.

Marketing materials 57%
Products 44%
National marketing programs 47%
Instructor conferences 63%
Lesson plans 56%
Extra question 14%

How many families did you train last month?

Under 5 families 55%
Over 5 families 11%
More than 10 families 20%
Extra question 12%

We are still analyzing the extra questions, but then again no surprises! Over the next few months you will see that we will actively address most of your concerns with new programs and ideas to better support you. Of course there

will always be suggestions that will take more than a few months, but please know your voices have been heard.

Thank you to those who took the time to give us your feedback and look for another Sign2Me Instructors' Network Health Check-up Survey later this year.

The Forum

What good is the Forum, and what it's not?

As many of you already know we have a very active Instructors' Network Forum. If you haven't visited lately, please see all the wonderful information posted by your fellow Instructors. It has loads of ideas that have been shared but it also contains questions and sometimes comments that should be directed elsewhere, specifically to the team at Sign2Me.

If you have a specific requirement that you need answers from Sign2Me please contact us directly. You will receive a prompt reply and won't have to wait until we find your question or concern on the Forum.

Of course if it is general question that the Instructors' network can answer or provide help, by all means post your question or idea. The Forum is a great place for discussing those suggestions and sharing your thoughts.