



TERRY PERSSON

EDUCATION IS THE WIND BENEATH YOUR WINGS

Terry Persson, Education Specialist for the Siletz area, seems like your favorite teacher from grade school, and guess what? She is. Before she came to work for the Tribe a little over three years ago, she taught GED classes in Kentucky. She's also taught GED classes for Oregon Coast Community College after moving to Lincoln County, worked in early Childhood Education for four years, and was a substitute teacher for two years. Her background includes a BS from Southern Oregon University, formerly SOC, in Ashland, and graduate work in counseling, occupational and adult education. Her husband Bruce, now retired from the army, and their three children, Anna, 17 years, Katrina, 15 years and Daniel, 4 years old, recently moved to a new home in South Beach. Bruce is enrolled in college now, so Terry's role as favorite teacher help's out on the home front, too. With the responsibility for the tribes Adult Education Program, Terry provides assistance to the tribal members with GED classes, Adult Basic Education (ABE), High School completion classes, basic skills development, literacy, cultural and enrichment classes. Terry also coordinates with other community services to establish and provide continuity for adult education.

Her latest accomplishments are the Adult Basic Education Program, GED and high school completion classes now offered in Siletz four days a week. GED classes are usually scheduled only once a week, but the frequency of the Siletz classes allows students to really build skills. Students may also take their books home. To facilitate this program, Terry works two hours a day through the Community College. Terry arranged the high school completion classes through the Community Services Consortium.

The Siletz Tribe, Lincoln County School District, Community Services Consortium and Oregon Coast Community College partnership provides a new delivery of services for the Siletz community. The programs are open to anyone in the community because of the partnership with the Community Services Consortium and Oregon Coast Community College. With this partnership the Tribe isn't re-doing the wheel, but modifying and improving one for the community that works successfully elsewhere.

Terry is also the coordinator for the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Program. Students can be given assistance in tutoring, cultural enhancement projects and college preparation program classes. JOM supplements other educational services available in the community. The JOM Parent Committee works closely with Terry on assessing needs, identifying activities and services and establishing a budget. Funding for this program is only given at a certain level, and the program has only received a small increase in funds in the past three years. With the new tribal housing development, a number of tribal members will be moving to Siletz, requiring more services.

A teacher, Randy Nyquist, was hired by Community Service Consortium for the Siletz program. The other half of his job is at Toledo high School. Community Service Consortium has two other schools in the county, First Resort in Lincoln City and an Alternative school in Newport.

Dedicated, innovative people like Terry will be figuring out how they can increase the wind.

Since this article was written, Terry has regretfully submitted her resignation, and will be accepting a position in another organization. She hopes to maintain the G.E.D. program, however. Her last day is on November 26th. Thank you, Terry for your hard work and commitment.

Program News



Tooth Talk

By Linda Kreutzer, Dental Hygienist
Siletz Community Health Clinic

Preventing Baby-Bottle Tooth Decay

Decay of baby teeth is a real problem. It causes unnecessary pain and suffering in young children, and is 100% preventable! When a child's front teeth are decayed due to poor feeding practices, this condition has a name, it's called BABY BOTTLE TOOTH DECAY. Here are some signs:

Front teeth have whitish 'spots' on them.

Front teeth have brownish 'spots' on them, small pits or holes may be seen.

Child cries and puts fingers or hands in mouth.

Baby teeth can become decayed very easily from milk sugars, juice or pop covering the teeth. This happens when the baby is put to bed with a bottle. This isn't a good idea. The sugar from the milk lays on the teeth all night, causing decay. This can also happen if a toddler carries a bottle around all day, constantly 'bathing' the teeth with milk or juice. Here are some suggestion to help prevent this problem:

1. If your baby MUST have a bottle to sleep, fill it with plain water. Another solution is to gradually dilute juice or milk with water, making the transition easier for the baby.
2. Begin to wean the baby from the bottle at 6 months of age. Encourage use of "tippy-cups". Baby should be "bottle-free" by one year of age.
3. Never dip a pacifier in sugar or honey. This gives the child a 'taste' for sweets at a young age. Never put pop in a baby bottle or cup. Baby teeth are softer than adult teeth and don't hold up well to the acids in soda.
4. Encourage healthy foods at a young age. Cooked vegetables, fruits, crackers and biscuits without sugar are GREAT instead of sugary cereals or cookies.
5. Clean your baby's teeth and gums with a clean washcloth or small soft toothbrush before bedtime.

Decay of baby teeth hurts the child, can be serious, and can affect the child's permanent teeth. A little prevention goes along way. Keep your child smiling with healthy teeth!

