

15 September, 2009

Dear Mentor,

As you know, the Specialty Recognition Program in Fluency Disorders is based on a model using BRS-FD mentors to guide and assist prospective specialists through the process of developing and achieving the knowledge and skills necessary to be recognized as a Fluency Specialist. Mentors like yourself, who volunteer their time to work with individual SLPs interested in helping those who stutter, are therefore central to the success of the Specialty Recognition Program. The Board would like to express our appreciation for your commitment to the specialization process. Because the Specialty Recognition Process in Fluency Disorders is still a relatively new process, procedural misunderstandings have not been uncommon. In order to clarify the procedures of the Specialty Recognition Program, and to assist you in your efforts to advise your mentee, the Board has prepared a **Mentor Packet** which is being delivered in a separate email.

As you are probably aware, the Board has recently updated the Standards and Procedures Manual. This was completed in an effort to clarify particular procedures that have led to confusion in the past. The Board is aware however, that the procedures outlined in the manual still have the potential to be misunderstood. It is the Board's hope that this Mentor Packet will provide you with the information you need to advise your mentee through the procedures required to receive and maintain the advanced credential of Board Recognized Specialist in Fluency Disorders (BRS-FD). It is important that you help your mentee to understand that the process of receiving recognition is a *mentor driven educational process*. Simply having a passion for working with individuals with fluency disorders is not sufficient to obtain specialty recognition. The mentee must meet all of the criteria set forth in the Standards and Procedure Manual, as outlined in the Portfolio Checklist enclosed in this packet.

The Board is relying on you, the mentor, to hold your mentee to the highest standards. When you recommend that your mentee submit their portfolio for the Board's approval, we expect that you have reviewed the document carefully and agree that all supporting materials are sufficient for specialty status. If you have any reservations about your mentee's portfolio, please discuss this with them BEFORE they submit it to the Board. The portfolio is a reflection of the both of you.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me via email at keldridgephd@gmail.com, or telephone at 815-403-1135. As the new Member Coordinator, I would also appreciate any comments you have regarding the Specialty Recognition Program. If your mentees have any questions, they should continue to contact the SRP Coordinator, Chamonix Olsen.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Eldridge, PhD, CCC-SLP, BRS-FD
Vice Chair and Member Coordinator
The Specialty Board on Fluency Disorders