Strategies for Creating Trauma-Sensitive Schools:
Statewide Conference

May 6, 2008
Hogan Center, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

KEYNOTE

“Sensory Strategies for Optimal Learning and Emotional Well Being”

Children who experience trauma and attachment difficulties often have many sensory sensitivities, and can be easily triggered by sensory experiences that may be experienced as benign to others. Developing sensory friendly classroom and hallway environments as well as creating a toolbox of sensory strategies to assist students in lowering their arousal to prepare them for learning are critical to school success. Let’s learn about sensory points and replenishing our youth’s sensory banks when the withdrawals exceed the deposits.

Jane Koomar, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Koomar is the owner, co-founder, and director of Occupational Therapy Associates (OTA)-Watertown and the President of the Board of the Spiral Foundation. She was formerly an assistant professor in occupational therapy at Boston University and completed her doctoral studies in developmental psychology there. In 1984, she studied with Dr. Jean Ayres, who developed the theory of sensory integration. Dr. Koomar has served as the chairperson of the Sensory Integration Special Interest Section of the American Occupational Therapy Association. She is a co-author of several book chapters on sensory integration dysfunction and intervention and has taught numerous courses on these topics. Dr. Koomar is also a consultant to the Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative (TLPI).