

Newsletter - Issue 04: December 2010

Pyramid Educational
Consultants of Australia
3/1 Basil Street
Newport VIC 3015
Ph: +61 3 9391 6122
Fax: +61 3 9391 6133
www.pecs.com

Contents

Welcome From Sophie

We are Relocating!

iPraiseU™ App

Upcoming PECS
Intensive Programs

Full Marks for PECS

Incorporating PECS
Across the Holidays

Holiday Product Specials

Christmas Closures

Interpreter Services
through FaHCSIA

Upcoming Workshops

Outreach Consult Dates

Featured Product: PECS151



to subscribe or
unsubscribe from this
newsletter
circulation, please email
ncullen@pecs.com



Welcome from Pyramid Australia's Clinical Director, Sophie Kerr

Pyramid Educational Consultants of Australia would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our clients and colleagues a fabulous festive season. We trust that you will all enjoy a safe, happy and PECS filled holiday season. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2011. In this issue enjoy product offers, information about incorporating PECS into your holidays and see our new iPhone app, iPraiseU™.

We would love to include some of our readers' magic moments in our next edition, so please send your stories to ncullen@pecs.com

Pyramid Educational Consultants of Australia are Relocating!

From December 17th, Pyramid Educational Consultants of Australia will be relocating to Altona North, Melbourne, Victoria.

We are all very much looking forward to moving to our new premises, which, along with consultation rooms and staff offices, will now be open for product sales. Feel free to drop in to our new offices to have a look at our product range, or to speak with Erin regarding consultations or any other Pyramid services.

Operating Hours:

(Please see page 7 for Christmas Operating Hours)

Monday to Friday - 8:00am to 4:30pm

From December 17th, we will be located at:

**413 Blackshaws Road
Altona North, Victoria, 3025**

Phone: +61 3 9314 5374

Fax: +61 3 9314 8692

As always, you can contact Erin Hobbin at ehobbin@pecs.com

Newsletter - Issue 04: December 2010

Pyramid Educational
Consultants of Australia
3/1 Basil Street
Newport VIC 3015
Ph: +61 3 9391 6122
Fax: +61 3 9391 6133
www.pecs.com

Contents

Welcome From Sophie

We are Relocating!

iPraiseU™ App

Upcoming PECS
Intensive Programs

Full Marks for PECS

Incorporating PECS
Across the Holidays

Holiday Product Specials

Christmas Closures

Interpreter Services
through FaHCSIA

Upcoming Workshops

Outreach Consult Dates

Featured Product: PECS151



to subscribe or
unsubscribe from this
newsletter
circulation, please email
ncullen@pecs.com

page two

iPraiseU™

Pyramid's first iPhone and iPad App!

Pyramid Educational Consultants' first app, iPraiseU, is perfect for instructors and parents who often struggle to think of praise beyond, "Good job!" or "Well done!" The iPraiseU™ app is a quick and easy way to praise your learners with multiple phrases, by multiple voices. iPraiseU™ is now available for purchase through the Apple® iTunes App Store for download on your iPhone or iPad.

Some praise statements include:

How Clever, Bingo, I knew you could do it, You're almost there.

Upon user interaction, iPraiseU™ will randomly select a positive praise from its built-in list of one hundred different praise statements. The use of 5 different voices, both male and female, ensures better generalisation as the learner does not become accustomed to hearing praise only from a primary instructor or parent. The recorded voices include those of the co-founders of Pyramid Educational Consultants and the co-creators of the Picture Exchange Communication System™ (PECS), Andy Bondy, Ph.D., and Lori Frost, M.S., CCC-SLP, (and our very own Amanda Reed!).

While the user can select the audio option, it is also possible to turn off the sound and read the praise statements directly from the screen. As an extra feature, an image is displayed on the screen with each praise statement. A girl dances in the middle of a star and, if the audio is turned on, she dances in time to the statement itself. For those learners who find visual stimulation reinforcing, this can add an extra dimension to the praise being delivered verbally.



To purchase iPraiseU™, please visit the Apple® iTunes App Store and search for iPraiseU

Upcoming PECS Intensive Programs

Melbourne

January 10th to 14th, 2011

April 11th to 15th, 2011

Darwin

Lori Frost (co-developer of PECS) and

Sophie Kerr (Clinical Director of Pyramid Australia)

will be conducting a PECS Intensive Program in Darwin from
July 11th to July 15th, 2011.

Please contact Erin Hobbin at ehobbin@pecs.com or on
03 9391 6122 to register your interest.

Pyramid Educational
Consultants of Australia
3/1 Basil Street
Newport VIC 3015
Ph: +61 3 9391 6122
Fax: +61 3 9391 6133
www.pecs.com

Contents

Welcome From Sophie

We are Relocating!

iPraiseU™ App

Upcoming PECS
Intensive Programs

Full Marks for PECS

Incorporating PECS
Across the Holidays

Holiday Product Specials

Christmas Closures

Interpreter Services
through FaHCSIA

Upcoming Workshops

Outreach Consult Dates

Featured Product: PECS151



to subscribe or
unsubscribe from this
newsletter
circulation, please email
ncullen@pecs.com

page three

✓✓✓ Full marks for PECS ✓✓✓

PECS has the highest positive rating on www.researchautism.net

Each intervention on this website is rated according to the amount and quality of scientific evidence which has been published in peer-reviewed journals that supports or does not support the effectiveness of that intervention.

You can see these interventions and their ratings at:

www.researchautism.net

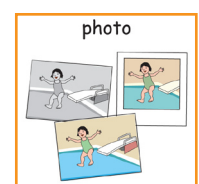
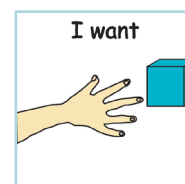
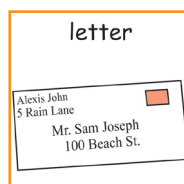
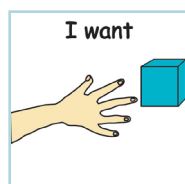
**to subscribe to our quarterly newsletter please email
"SUBSCRIBE" to ncullen@pecs.com**

you can also find us on Facebook, and subscribe to our RSS Feed
where we post news on a regular basis

just click on the relevant icon in the side bar

Do you have a question, would you like advice?

Sophie will be answering a new question in each newsletter.
Please send an email to Narelle at ncullen@pecs.com
if you have a question you would like answered.



We would love to hear from you! Please send in stories, photos or
comments you would like to share in future newsletters.

Email to: ncullen@pecs.com

If you have any general questions, or would like to provide feedback
about our newsletter, please contact Erin Hobbin at ehobbin@pecs.com,
or on 03 9391 6122

Pyramid Educational
Consultants of Australia
3/1 Basil Street
Newport VIC 3015
Ph: +61 3 9391 6122
Fax: +61 3 9391 6133
www.pecs.com

Contents

Welcome from Sophie

We are Relocating!

iPraiseU™ App

Upcoming PECS
Intensive Programs

Full Marks for PECS

Incorporating PECS
Across the Holidays

Holiday Product Specials

Christmas Closures

Interpreter Services
through FaHCSIA

Upcoming Workshops

Outreach Consult Dates

Featured Product: PECS 151



to subscribe or
unsubscribe from this
newsletter
circulation, please email
ncullen@pecs.com

Incorporating PECS Across the Holidays

During October I was lucky enough to stay with 2 families and provide in-home PECS training across 2 days. The experience of waking up and getting straight into PECS over breakfast (even before my first coffee) got me thinking about PECS

opportunities during the holiday period. Trying to maintain incorporating PECS across the day becomes even more of a challenge when the typical schedule of the day is thrown into disarray with Christmas shopping, preparing food and other activities associated with the festive season.

If your child is in school, planning during term time often focuses around the morning and evening routines and the weekends. Vocabulary used during these activities tends to remain similar across the year. The holiday period brings with it opportunities to explore new activities and assist with activities such as cooking, making gift cards and wrapping presents. Within these activities it is possible that a range of new vocabulary items will come into play for your PECS user. So in addition to making up some 'spares' (blank laminated cards in the same size as your PECS user's picture cards) and purchasing a sharpie, some preparation for this period will assist in ensuring that your PECS user continues to have a minimum of 30-40 communicative opportunities each day.

I personally find activity based planning the simplest way to go about identifying potential vocabulary and a range of communication opportunities. Review all of the tasks that that you have to complete e.g. Christmas shopping, baking, preparing meals, visiting friends, etc. Make a plan for tasks that your PECS user can complete within these activities. Consider using visual schedules to assist you PECS user in understanding what will be happening (especially when their reinforcers will be available). Also review the things that your student likes about each activity. This will allow you to identify (and make) all of the required vocabulary. No matter how well you plan, there are bound to be times where your PECS user wants something that they don't have a picture for, so make yourself a bag of spares and get yourself a sharpie. Also consider purchasing our featured product for this month, PECS 151. This set of pictures contains 151 high use pictures that can be used to request for a range of items e.g. food, drink, toy and kid's meal. Having this range of generic pictures on hand can reduce the stress of having to create a large number of new pictures.

Use the PECS Across the Day planning sheet to assist in reviewing the day for communication opportunities (file is labelled Comm Prog + Day on the PECS Data Forms CD). This will ensure that as many opportunities as possible are taken advantage of. See the example provided on the following page.

Pyramid Educational
Consultants of Australia
3/1 Basil Street
Newport VIC 3015
Ph: +61 3 9391 6122
Fax: +61 3 9391 6133
www.pecs.com

Contents

Welcome from Sophie

We are Relocating!

iPraiseU™ App

Upcoming PECS
Intensive Programs

Full Marks for PECS

Incorporating PECS
Across the Holidays

Holiday Product Specials

Christmas Closures

Interpreter Services
through FaHCSIA

Upcoming Workshops

Outreach Consult Dates

Featured Product: PECS151



to subscribe or
unsubscribe from this
newsletter
circulation, please email
ncullen@pecs.com

Continued... Incorporating PECS Across the Holidays

Communication Programming across the day[®]

Student: Jo	Date: 18.12.10
-------------	----------------

Time	Activity	Location	Functional Objectives	Expressive Goals	Direction Following
9am	Baking	Kitchen	Reading a recipe Preparing food	I want: bowl, cup, jug, flour, milk, spoon, sugar, etc Help: sabotage tactic can't open, can't reach	Get the/Pass the: bowl, cup, spoon, etc
10 am	Swimming	Pool		I want: rings, fish, pool noodle, kick board, mum jump, mum race, mum throw, etc Help: open gate- can't open gate independently	Get you bathers on Bring the sunscreen Wait
12 pm	Picnic lunch	Park	Sitting with the group Gross motor	I want: sandwich, juice, cake, fruit, push, swing, slide, bucket, spade, water, Help: swing- can't push self	Wait Go play with... Pass the...

Holidays are the perfect time for generalisation- impromptu visits by family and friends provide a new range of reinforcers (food, drinks, presents) and communicative partners. Be sure to take advantage of any extra pair of hands that are available, particularly if working at Phases I and II of PECS.

Having extra children around during the holiday period also provides opportunities for PECS with peers. Consider setting up games and activities that your PECS user plays with independently- make sure there are requesting opportunities. Some suggested activities include potato head pals, train set, beetle game, making pizzas, baking, marble run and swimming. Teach your PECS user's friends how to use PECS within the game situation. This will provide you with the opportunity to go and enjoy coffee and festive treats in another part of the house with your friends.

Pyramid Educational
Consultants of Australia
3/1 Basil Street
Newport VIC 3015
Ph: +61 3 9391 6122
Fax: +61 3 9391 6133
www.pecs.com

Contents

Welcome from Sophie

We are Relocating!

iPraiseU™ App

Upcoming PECS
Intensive Programs

Full Marks for PECS

Incorporating PECS
Across the Holidays

Holiday Product Specials

Christmas Closures

Interpreter Services
through FaHCSIA

Upcoming Workshops

Outreach Consult Dates

Featured Product: PECS151



to subscribe or
unsubscribe from this
newsletter
circulation, please email
ncullen@pecs.com

Pyramid's Holiday Product Special!

The holidays are a great time to catch up on some reading and materials preparation. 'The Pyramid Approach to Education', 'Lesson Plans for Young Children' and the Pics for PECS CD will provide you with:

- Information on how to set up your educational environment
- Ideas for planning what to teach and how to teach it
- Fully prepared lesson plans for a range of skills
- Thousands of pictures

Take this opportunity to purchase these products at discounted prices and be fully prepared for the beginning of the new school year.

Lesson Plans for Young Children

by Andy Bondy, Ph.D., Kate Dickey, Diane Black, M.Ed., and Sarah Buswell, 2002, 127 pages.

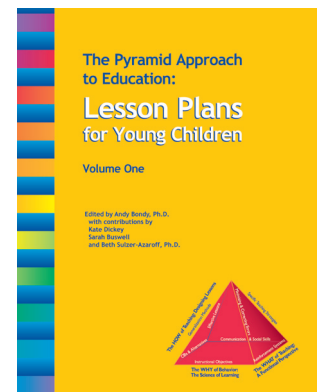
This manual is the perfect resource for any individual who instructs young children. It contains 100 ready-to-use lesson plans to teach learners skills in the following life areas: school-based, communication, self-help, social, domestic, recreation/leisure, and community based skills. This manual also assists teachers in writing additional lesson plans within the Pyramid Approach to Education framework by providing detailed explanations and examples. Each lesson was developed by teachers and specialists.

Lesson Plans for Young Children (Hardcopy only)

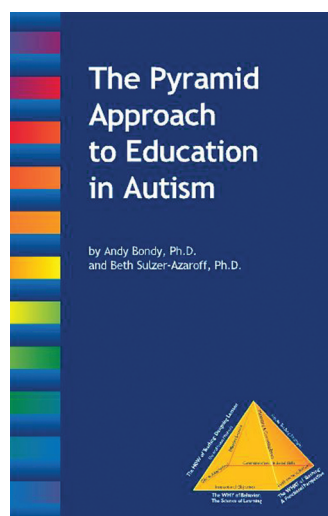
WAS: \$AUD72.00 (inc GST)

NOW 15% OFF: \$AUD61.20 (inc GST)

until January 7th, 2011



Visit www.pecs.com for free samples!



The Pyramid Approach to Education in Autism

by Andy Bondy, Ph.D. and Beth Sulzer-Azaroff, Ph.D., 2002, 236 pages.

"The Pyramid Approach to Education in Autism" presents Bondy's integrative approach to teaching people across the autism spectrum, and within any learning environment. The authors combine their acumen and experience in this edition to further clarify and refine for readers a wide array of strategies necessary to create effective lessons. This book is designed to guide teachers, other professionals, and parents toward asking the right questions and designing constructive answers as they develop powerful home, school and community-based educational programs. The Pyramid Approach allows readers previously frustrated by marginal student learning to find answers to many of their questions. It straightforwardly recommends how and where to begin to teach and methods for following through for greater success and instructional satisfaction.

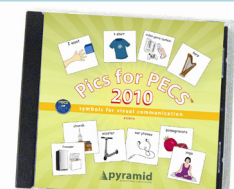
The Pyramid Approach to Education in Autism

WAS: \$AUD97.00 (inc GST)

NOW 15% OFF: \$AUD82.45 (inc GST)

until January 7th, 2011

Pics for PECS™ 2010® CD
WAS: \$AUD55.00 (inc GST)
NOW 15% OFF: \$AUD46.75 (inc GST)
until January 7th, 2011



Pyramid Educational
Consultants of Australia
3/1 Basil Street
Newport VIC 3015
Ph: +61 3 9391 6122
Fax: +61 3 9391 6133
www.pecs.com

Contents

Welcome from Sophie

We are Relocating!

iPraiseU™ App

Upcoming PECS
Intensive Programs

Full Marks for PECS

Incorporating PECS
Across the Holidays

Holiday Product Specials

Christmas Closures

Interpreter Services
through FaHCSIA

Upcoming Workshops

Outreach Consult Dates

Featured Product: PECS151



to subscribe or
unsubscribe from this
newsletter
circulation, please email
ncullen@pecs.com

page seven

Take Advantage of 2010 Product Pricing

Unfortunately, we have had to raise some of our product prices for 2011, so take advantage of our 2010 product pricing by placing your orders **before December 17th, 2010.**

All orders received after December 17th, 2010 will not be processed until after the product department reopens on January 4th, 2011. All product orders received after December 17th will be charged at 2011 prices

Please be patient!

As Christmas draws nearer, the Pyramid Product Department and the Australian Postal Service experience a higher than normal volume of mail and orders. Please be patient at this time, as your order may take a little longer than usual to arrive.

Christmas Closures

Pyramid Educational Consultants of Australia's offices will be closed for the Christmas break
from December 24th, 2010 to January 4th, 2011

Pyramid Educational Consultants of Australia's products department will be closed for the Christmas break
from December 17th, 2010 to January 4th, 2011.

PECS Training Manual (Second Edition) - Translations

In addition to English, our PECS Training Manual (Second Edition) is available in the following languages:



Italian



French



Greek



Spanish



Japanese



Brazilian
Portuguese

Pyramid also plans to translate our PECS Training Manual into Russian, German, Arabic, Korean and Chinese in the near future. If you would like to purchase the manual in any of the above translations, please contact ncullen@pecs.com

Pyramid Educational
Consultants of Australia
3/1 Basil Street
Newport VIC 3015
Ph: +61 3 9391 6122
Fax: +61 3 9391 6133
www.pecs.com

Contents

Welcome from Sophie

We are Relocating!

iPraiseU™ App

Upcoming PECS
Intensive Programs

Full Marks for PECS

Incorporating PECS
Across the Holidays

Holiday Product Specials

Christmas Closures

Interpreter Services
through FaHCSIA

Upcoming Workshops

Outreach Consult Dates

Featured Product: PECS151



to subscribe or
unsubscribe from this
newsletter
circulation, please email
ncullen@pecs.com

Interpreter Services Accessed Through FaHCSIA Funding

Pyramid-Australia recently utilised the free interpreting service offered by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

Access to interpreting services is critical for ensuring appropriate and effective service delivery to clients of FaHCSIA funded services who speak little or no English.

Rebecca Wright used this service for the first time in October with a new client. Following is Rebecca's account of how the session went:

"When I first met with the family they were relieved to know that the interpreter that had been sent spoke their dialect of Egyptian Arabic. Through the interpreter the family were able to understand my explanations of the Pyramid Approach to Education and the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). Having the interpreter present meant there was no communication breakdown during the session. The family were able to ask any questions they had and the interpreter was able to relay my answers to the family. The use of the interpreter was invaluable to the success of the consultation."

If you would like further information on FaHCSIA's free interpreting services please contact Erin Hobbin at ehobbin@pecs.com, or on 03 9391 6122

Upcoming Workshops

To register and pay for our workshops online, please visit our [Training](#) page at www.pecs.com. You can also register for our workshops by downloading a registration form from our [Forms & Applications](#) page, and sending it in to the Pyramid office by fax, mail or email.

Melbourne	PECS Basic Training	17th & 18th February, 2011
Brisbane	PECS Basic Training	21st & 22nd February, 2011
Sydney	PECS Basic Training	3rd & 4th March, 2011
Auckland	PECS Basic Training	24th & 25th March, 2011
Hong Kong	PECS Basic Training	31st March & 1st April, 2011

Pyramid Educational
Consultants of Australia
3/1 Basil Street
Newport VIC 3015
Ph: +61 3 9391 6122
Fax: +61 3 9391 6133
www.pecs.com

Contents

Welcome from Sophie

We are Relocating!

iPraiseU™ App

Upcoming PECS
Intensive Programs

Full Marks for PECS

Incorporating PECS
Across the Holidays

Holiday Product Specials

Christmas Closures

Interpreter Services
through FaHCSIA

Upcoming Workshops

Outreach Consult Dates

Featured Product: PECS151



to subscribe or
unsubscribe from this
newsletter
circulation, please email
ncullen@pecs.com

page nine

Upcoming Outreach Consultation Dates

Brisbane: 23rd February, 2011

Sydney: 5th March, 2011

Auckland: 23rd to 26th March, 2011

Hong Kong: 30th March, 2011

Mildura: 14th May, 2011

For further information, please contact Erin at ehobbin@pecs.com
A complete list of 2011 Outreach Consultation Dates available at www.pecs.com

Featured Product for December

PECS 151 - Revised Picture Set

Pyramid Educational Consultants of Australia is pleased to announce the update and re-release of it's popular picture collection to help those with autism and other developmental disabilities communicate with those around them.

The PECS 151™ - Revised Picture Set is a highly colourful collection of pictures and symbols for visual communication for use as part of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). The picture set includes some of the most commonly used pictures for PECS. The list of images was compiled over several years by tracking picture vocabulary development of a significant number of new PECS users and include a total of 151 pictures.

Each PECS 151™ - Revised picture is generic and non-specific and is perfect for combining with attributes for precise requests or comments. The illustrations are in full colour, explicit and versatile. Each set contains six Sentence Starter™ icons and twenty beginning attribute icons. The pictures are 2.5cm in size, come printed on rigid paper and are laminated, for added durability. Loop Velcoins© are included to apply to the back of the pictures, which allows them to be used with communication books, schedules, activity boards, and visual reinforcement systems – anywhere you use visual strategies.

Each set has been updated to reflect more current and commonly used pictures. Some of the new images include: "DVD", "sensory table", "sand play" and "squishy toys" among others. The revised set now also includes localised images, such as "biscuit", "sauce", "backpack" and "sultanas".

Click on the link below to view this product in our online store:

[Australian Online Store](#)
[New Zealand Store](#)

