

Richard Lavoie, M.A., M.Ed.



Rick Lavoie has served as an administrator of residential programs for children with special needs since 1972. He holds three degrees in Special Education and has served as an adjunct professor or visiting lecturer at numerous universities including Syracuse, Harvard, Gallaudet, Manhattanville College, University of Alabama and Georgetown. His numerous national television appearances include CBS Morning Show, Good Morning Amedca, ABC Evening News and Disney Channel Presents.

Rick serves as a consultant on Learning Disabilities to several agencies and organizations including Public Broadcasting Service, New York Times, National Center for Learning Disabilities, Girl Scouts of America, Child Magazine and WETA. He is a member of the Professional Advisor Board of the Learning Disabilities Association.

Rick has delivered his message to over 500,000 parents and professionals throughout North America. He has the distinction of having delivered Keynote Addresses for all three of the major special needs advocacy organizations in the United States (Learning Disabilities Association, Council for Exceptional Children, Children with Attention Deficit Disorder).

Rick has held administrative positions at residential programs for thirty years. These experiences at residential school have provided Rick with a "living laboratory" in which he developed and refined his methods and philosophies related to the education of adolescents with special needs.

Rick is probably best known for his videos ["How Difficult Can This Be?: The F.A.T. City Workshop"](#) and ["Last One Picked, First One Picked On: The Social Implications of Learning Disabilities"](#). These award-winning films have brought Rick's sensitive and compelling message to countless thousands throughout the world. After viewing the videos, former First Lady Barbara Bush stated, "You really wowed us! I only wish that every parent and teacher in the United States today could also see your program." His new video on behavior management is entitled ["When the Chips are Down ..."](#) is now available through **LD OnLine**.

Rick lives on Cape Cod with his wife.

A Dozen Strategies that Don't Work with Learning Disabled Kids. And a Dozen that Do

A wise man once described "irrationality" as repeatedly doing the same thing and expecting a difference result each time. In our field, there are numerous techniques that are frequently and extensively used despite the fact that these strategies are ineffective (e.g., follow-along reading, time out, classroom competition, punishment). This workshop will demonstrate these strategies and explore the reasons why they simply do not work.

The second half of the seminar will outline twelve unique and field-tested techniques that can be used by parents and professionals to modify and improve children's behavior and performance.

As caregivers, we must consistently evaluate the strategies that we use with our students. As FDR cautioned us, "Do something. If it works, do more of it. If it doesn't work, do something else."

Objectives:

- The learner will understand the ineffectiveness of common "time out" strategies and learn effective alternatives to this technique.
- The learner will understand common but faulty language arts techniques and will learn effective alternative strategies
- The learner will master twelve behavior management techniques that can monitor and modify children's behavior at home and in the classroom.