



## Brenda L. Lipp, M.A., LSW, NCSP

Brenda Lipp is currently a school psychologist with the special education department for the Bismarck Public School District in Bismarck, ND. She is also an Education Fellow with The



ChildTrauma Academy. Ms. Lipp has worked in educational settings for the past 30 years and has served youth from kindergarten to age 21. After receiving her B.A. degree in psychology from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, she obtained her M.A. in clinical psychology from Ball State University.

During her post-secondary training, Ms. Lipp was fortunate to be on staff at the North Dakota State Hospital. During her time there, she worked with inpatient adolescent and adults. Her areas of focus at this time included chronic mental illness, addiction, and personality disorders. Further opportunities led Ms. Lipp to become involved in a regional mental health facility, now known as West Central Human Service Center located in Bismarck, where she offered play-therapy, individual, group and marriage counseling services. Her clients ranged in age from preschool through adulthood. Through this experience, Ms. Lipp recognized her love of children and the desire to provide opportunities for involving all family members in helping children reach their maximum potential because she saw that positive experiences and relationships formed earlier in life provided for a lifetime of healthy development.

In recognition of this passion to work with younger children, Ms. Lipp became a psychologist for Bismarck Public Schools. In order to further prepare for meeting students' needs, she continued graduate work through the School of Psychology at Minnesota State University, Moorhead. Since, Ms. Lipp has helped design crisis training protocols for educational institutions for the State of North Dakota and has been part of the BPS Crisis Team since its inception. She has facilitated building a program to help children individually and through family support, always with the goal of early intervention. As part of a leadership group designed to assess students holistically, Ms. Lipp and her team provide individualized support for students. She is also leading a current effort to design instructional practices within Bismarck Public Schools utilizing NME concepts in combination with a "Response to Intervention" approach. Additionally, Ms. Lipp has served for over 20 years in a family co-op counseling program called Youthworks, which focuses on adolescents. As a licensed social worker, her main focus with this group has been on family counseling for "at-risk" families and who may be involved with the juvenile justice system's Diversion Program. She has also served on various state-wide planning teams through the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction-Special Education Division in an effort to build programs for schools that address mental health needs of students.

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