

plus and deficit--the behavior of millions of people: Little variability may make this very difficult to change.

Using the yearly Standard Celeration Chart for these data, makes it clear we are in a crisis--we spend more than we earn and the difference between the two continues to increase. Meager steps, such as cutting the very small NEA budget, are laughable. Cutting a million here, a million there, will do, as the British say, damn all. It is directly analogous to a family saying, "We owe \$100,000. We better start a penny jar to pay it off." To save the financial life of this country, we must bite the bullet and take billions of dollars of cuts. Now.

In future articles, I shall look at different parts of the federal budget and at the data back to 1776.

## References

*The World Almanac 1992*. Mahwah, NJ: World Almanac.  
*The World Almanac 1995*. Mahwah, NJ: World Almanac.

---

## PT Data Lands in Fiction

Abigail B. Calkin

I believe it was at an ABA meeting in Nashville, Tennessee in the mid-80's when we talked about getting Precision Teaching and Direct Instruction into more areas than behavior analysis and public education.

Carl Binder has taken fluency into private business. Hank Pennypacker founded MammaCare. A number of precision teachers have private schools (Kent Johnson, Michael Maloney, Ian & Aileen Spence, Elizabeth Haughton, and Annie Desjardins). We are beginning to publish more in the journals other than *Journal of Precision Teaching*.

In my most recent novel, *The Carolyne Letters*, the main character counts fetal movement. I used the data from my son's fetal movement chart (Calkin, 1983) with an exception. I had a cesar-

ean section two weeks early; Amelia, the mother in the story, did not. To compute the possible final seven data points I used in the novel, I compared my son's fetal movement with that from the dozen or so other fetal charts I have (including one of his cousin's). I then projected proportionately what my son's fetal movement would have been if I had not had an early, no-labor cesarean section. I used seven of these projected data points for the final ten days of Amelia's pregnancy.

I believe this is the first use of Standard Celeration Chart data in fiction.

## References

Calkin, A. B. (1983). Counting fetal movement. *Journal of Precision Teaching*, 4(1), 35-40.  
Calkin, A. B. (1995). *The Carolyne Letters*. Salt Lake City: Northwest Publishing Inc.