



Idawc • Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County

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October is LD Awareness Month

Imagine if instead of focussing on the weaknesses of children, teens and adults with learning disabilities, we focussed on their strengths and talents?

Learning disabilities have a huge impact on Canadian schools, the workforce, correctional facilities and mental health arenas, and seeing the statistics, below, you can see why.

Here are the stats, according to the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDAC) Pacfold survey:

- 1 In 10 people in Ontario are impacted
- 35% of students with LDs drop out of school
- 62% of students with LDs will be unemployed a year after graduation
- 36% of youth in correctional facilities have specific learning disabilities
- Almost 50% of adolescent suicides have a diagnosis of an LD

We can, however, change these statistics. If society helps people with LDs to succeed, all of the above statistics can be radically altered, leading to successful lives that can impact our communities for the better and people with learning disabilities can become among the most creative, and productive members of our communities.

Join with us as we celebrate October as LD Awareness month. As you can see from the poster below, the message is clear: every learner needs to be seen from a strengths-based perspective. From kindergarten to grade 7 to grade 12 and beyond, each person with has a unique set of strengths. Our message is this...people with LD have abilities and strengths...see and recognize these!



Don't **DIS** my **ABILITIES!**



**October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month.
Help stop the stigma and realize the ABILITIES!**



ldao • Learning Disabilities
Association of Ontario

The right to learn, the power to achieve

www.LDAO.ca



United Way
Guelph Wellington
Dufferin

LDAWC Family Conference – October 21st

*If you haven't registered for our **FREE** Family Conference, you don't want to miss out!*

Conference highlights:

- Keynote speaker Michael Reist, educational consultant, speaking on “Boys and Girls Learn Differently”
- Two breakout sessions throughout the day with varied topics to choose from
- Experiential workshop on what it's like living with an LD – by Integra, a leading mental health agency specializing in helping those with LDs
- Lunch and refreshments provided
- Door prizes – books by Michael Reist, LDAO webinars and more!



Plus register before October 7 for our early bird prize of 4 Guelph Storm tickets (choice of 5 dates)

A special thanks to the Ministry of Education's Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant that has enabled us to host this conference.

When: October 21, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Where: St. James Catholic High School, 57 Victoria Road N, Guelph

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ldawc-family-conference-2017-tickets-33891956755>

Visit our website at www.ldawc.ca to access the conference program and summaries of all keynote, plenary and breakout session topics and speakers.

Success Attributes

Every parent wants their child to be successful. But parenting a child with an LD can be that much more challenging because of their strengths and needs. What different characteristics or attributes can you as a parent nurture in your child to make them have more of a chance of being successful in life?

The Frostig Center, who has researched success attributes, has been in existence for over 60 years in the United States. The organization's mission is to improve the lives of children with learning disabilities through "an integrated program of primary research, professional development and consultation, and the Frostig School".



They have done extensive research on what characteristics adults with "successful" life outcomes have. They have found that adults have the following six characteristics in common:

- Self-awareness
- Proactivity
- Perseverance
- Goal-setting
- Support systems
- Emotional coping strategies

The Frostig Centre recently published a new Parent Guide explaining these success attributes, which they encourage parents to foster. More information can be found here:

<http://frostig.org/our-research/parent-guide/>

More information about success attributes and the Frostig Centre is here: www.frostig.org

Guelph Storm - Help Us Fundraise!



Tickets are \$17.50 each

Help support LDAWC and The United Way! By purchasing tickets to these Storm games we are able to run our 50/50 draw. This is a significant fundraiser for us every year so help us be able to participate.

\$1 from each ticket will be donated to the United Way.

Game dates are:

Saturday, October 29, 4:00 PM – Guelph vs. London Knights

Sunday, November 26, 2:00 PM – Guelph vs. Barrie Colts

Saturday, December 16, 4:00 PM – Guelph vs. Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds

Thursday, December 28, 7:00 PM – Guelph vs. Peterborough Petes

Friday, January 5, 7:30 PM – Guelph vs. Owen Sound Attack

To order tickets email our Program Coordinator Jen Paterson at info@ldawc.ca or call (519) 837-2050.



LDAO Webinars



LDAO offers some amazing webinars for parents to build their knowledge base and help them become more effective advocates for their children.

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, in partnership with the **Integra Program** of the Child Development Institute, is presenting an online workshop for parents and those who are helping parents navigate the school system. The course is called ***Partnering with Schools for Student Success***, and promotes a collaborative approach to advocacy, based on knowledge and understanding on both sides.

It's a seven unit course, and begins October 16, 2017.

Professional version with assignments & Certificate of Completion: \$350 (\$300 LDAO member rate)

Parent version without assignments or certificate: \$250 (\$200 LDAO member rate)

For more information, cost and to register, go to: <http://www.ldao.ca/ldao-services/workshops-courses/partnering-with-schools-for-student-success-effective-parent-advocacy/>

Other LDAO Workshops

LDAO also offers other workshops for parents, such as ***Parent Workshop Series: Setting Up Your Child For Success***. This 3-part series covers:

- Part 1: If Your Child Is Struggling

- Part 2: Understanding the IPRC Process
- Part 3: ADHD: The Home and School Connection

Each part can be taken separately for \$25 each or as a series for \$75.

For more information, go to <http://www.ldao.ca/ldao-services/workshops-courses/parent-workshop-series-setting-up-your-child-for-success/>

Growth Mindset



Whether you're a teacher, student or parent, attitude plays a big role in your life. If you haven't heard of Growth Mindset, this is something that could really impact your life. There are opportunities for you to learn with your child, or for teachers to create a 'mindset' classroom. Make this school year a growth mindset year! Read more below...

Mindset is a simple idea discovered by world-renowned Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck in decades of research on achievement and success—a simple idea that makes all the difference.

In a fixed mindset, people believe their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply fixed traits. They spend their time documenting their intelligence or talent instead of developing them. They also believe that talent alone creates success—without effort. They're wrong.

In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love

of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Virtually all great people have had these qualities.

Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D., is one of the world's leading researchers in the field of motivation and is a Professor of Psychology at Stanford University. Her research has focused on why people succeed and how to foster success. Many school boards in the United States and Canada have adopted the growth mindset principles in their schools and teaching.

To learn more about the many products available to both home and school, visit www.mindsetworks.com

Here is a neat infographic about growth mindset!



Other Agency Events

Rick Lavoie is an author and educator who has written many books on learning disabilities, and has also focussed heavily on the social skills aspects of children. See him this November!

RICK LAVOIE

“Sorry...that seat’s taken”: Helping Children and Youth Develop Effective Social Skills

Saturday Nov 11, 2017 · 9:00am - 12:15pm

The average student spends 1,080 hours a year in the classroom. This represents only 5% of the child’s waking hours. The majority of a child’s time is spent in SOCIAL situations... in the hallways, in the cafeteria, on the school bus, at Grandma’s, at hockey practice and in the neighbourhood.

This presents a significant problem for kids with 22q. The cognitive and learning challenge that they face often impact their ability to interact with peers, family and authority figures. As a result, they often experience social isolation and rejection.

This seminar, based on the speaker’s 35 year’s experience with students at special boarding schools, will discuss the correlation between 22q and social skill development. Specific strategies will be discussed and demonstrated that will enable parents, professionals and caregivers to assist children in establishing (and maintaining) friendships.

Among the topics covered will be:

- The generic nature of social skills difficulties
- The impact of language disabilities and paralinguistics on social skills
- Teaching the Hidden Curriculum to 22q students
- Social skill interventions that DON’T work
- Parents’ role in social skill development
- Ten steps toward a successful play date.

**For more information or to register for
Rick’s Keynote Address, contact:
Connect22qFamilies@rogers.com**



Rick Lavoie

Author of
“It’s So Much Work to Be Your Friend”

You can hear Rick Lavoie speak
at the fourth annual
22q11.2 Family Conference

Nov 11, 2017
9:00am - 12:15pm

Daniels Hollywood Theatre
SickKids · Toronto

22q11.2
FAMILY CONFERENCE
CONNECT to Educate, Advocate & Navigate 22q

SickKids®
FOUNDATION



United Way
Guelph Wellington
Dufferin

Positive Parenting Seminars at K-W Counselling

Children and Stress (Free)

Children get stressed, too! Whether it is busy schedules, feeling unable to meet expectations, conflict in relationships, daily worries, or any other challenge, our kids can be affected by stress in the same way we are. This workshop will help you identify signs that your child is feeling stressed and give you strategies to help your child deal positively with stress.

When: Wednesday, November 8, 2017; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School - 50 Saginaw Parkway, Cambridge

Children and Anxiety (Free)

As parents, we expect that our children will experience fear or anxiety from time to time. Sometimes, though, childhood fears and anxieties are bigger than we expect and leave us at a loss for how to respond. This workshop will help you understand what to do when your child is experiencing fear or anxiety, and how you can help your child to develop skills for understanding and managing these.

When: Thursday, December 14, 2017; 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Where: Doon Pioneer Park Community Centre - 150 Pioneer Drive, Kitchener

LDAWC's November Workshop – ADHD and Mental Health

There are many strategies available to assist in coping with Mental Health in your family, and specifically as it relates to individuals with ADHD. The Guelph ADHD & Asperger's Centre will be hosting this event and sharing their wealth of knowledge on this topic.

When: Wednesday, November 29, 7 – 9 PM

Where: Community Living Guelph, 9 Royal Road, Guelph

Cost: \$15 for non-members; \$10 for members. *We never want cost to be a deterrent! Please contact us about subsidies.*

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ldawc-adhd-and-mental-health-tickets-35925206259>



LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION FORM



**Ldao • Learning Disabilities
Association of Ontario**

The right to learn, the power to achieve

Date _____

Name _____

Member #: _____

Chapter #: _____

Address _____

City/Province/Postal Code _____

Please check this box if you agreed to receive your copies of Communiqué by e-mail in the future

Email address: _____

(please print clearly)

Type of Yearly Membership (please check one)

Family/Individual \$50.00 Professional \$75.00

Institutional \$125.00 Student \$20.00 (ID # Required) _____

Type of Payment

Cash (only if paying in person) Cheque Money Order Visa Master Card

Card # _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name as it appears on the Credit Card: _____ Signature: _____

I would like to volunteer: at the local level at the provincial level

Benefits of Membership for all members:

- Member fee rates to all LDAO programs and services, including online workshops/courses, etc.
- Member fee rates to all chapter programs and services, where available
- 2 issues of the LDAO Newsletter Communiqué – by mail and now electronically to those who chose to receive their issues to a designated email address
- Chapter newsletters (frequency varies from chapter to chapter)

For Professional and Institutional Members only (In addition to those mentioned above)

- Professional members will receive 5 hard copies of each issue of Communiqué to use as they choose (if a member elects to receive their copy of Communiqué by email we will still send hard copies) and 5 member fee rate entitlements to any **LDAO** programs and services, including online workshops/courses, etc.
- Institutional members will receive 10 hard copies of each issue of Communiqué to use as they choose (if a member elects to receive their copy of Communiqué by email we will still send hard copies) and 10 member fee rate entitlements to any **LDAO** programs and services, including online workshops/courses, etc.

Please make all payments payable to **Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario** and forward to:

LDAO Membership Coordinator

365 Evans Avenue, Suite 202, Toronto, ON M8Z 1K2

Phone: 416-929-4311, Fax 416-929-3905



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