

**Educate. Connect. Empower.**

Issue 104  
December 2018

## What's in this issue?

### Inside this issue:

SEAC Updates	2
WRFN Annual Appeal	3
WRFN E.D. Recognized for Leadership	4
What's Happening at WRFN	5
Coffee Club Update	9
Perfect Pitch	10
Reducing Holiday Stress	10
Upcoming Community Events	11

Just like that it's December!

As we head into the holiday season of sharing and giving, we hope you will consider supporting WRFN by donating to our Annual Appeal, today. Our goal is to raise \$45,000 by the end of 2018 and we can't do that without your help! Head to page 3 to find out how you can support the WRFN Annual Appeal.

You can also find information about what's happening at WRFN and in the community in the new year, including Dreaming of Summer.

Wishing you and your family a safe and happy Holiday Season and all the best for the year ahead!



**Support WRFN Today**

Waterloo Region Family Network  
[www.wrfn.info](http://www.wrfn.info)  
[info@wrfn.info](mailto:info@wrfn.info)

## SEAC Updates

### Waterloo Region District School Board - Special Education Advisory Update

*Submitted by Carmen Sutherland, WRDN Representative*

Board Staff came to talk about digital citizenship. Sections on the WRDSB website talk about how digital citizenship is supported at school, how parents can talk to their kids about digital citizenship and other important information.

EQAO Results (Special Education): Our Board is generally improving but below the province, except Grade 6 math, Grade 9 applied and academic math, and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test where the Board is ahead.

WRDSB Safe Caring and Inclusive School Survey Update: Will tabulate and share findings soon, used new survey, Middle Years Development Instrument

Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy: The key to this is to make sure that teachers respond to each student on an individual basis, and to reduce their bias.

OHRC: Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities: Reviewed Section 8 about which aspects we thought most important to review in the future.

Kris Pryke gave an update on Equity and Inclusion committee-great diversity, a lot of talk about privilege

Special Education Updates: Government has halted all programs so no Pro Grants, SEAC will support a letter advocating for Pro Grants to the federal government

The next SEAC meeting is Wednesday, December 12 at 7p.m. at the Education Centre, 51 Ardelet Avenue, Kitchener N2C 2R5.

### Waterloo Catholic District School Board - Special Education Advisory Update

*Submitted by Sue Simpson*

#### Board Report PPM 161:

The importance to develop and maintain a policy or policies to support students/staff in school with medical conditions to ensure consistent expectations with respect to management, care and emergency procedures was addressed.

Plans of Care will be developed for all medical conditions including anaphylaxis, asthma, Type 1/Type 2 diabetes, epilepsy-seizure disorder, concussion, heart conditions, etc. They will be available electronically to school personnel and procedural plans of action will be posted in student classrooms where it has been identified that medical interventions may be required.

#### Community Living Presentation:

Tracey Fuschino, Community Transition Support Officer, presented to the committee on Transition Planning. Transition Planning is about participation in community life as a valued member of society. It's also about preparing to leave school and doing things in the community that all adults do.

In her role, Tracey familiarizes parents, special education teachers and students with the transition planning process providing detailed information about the range of services and programs in our community to support the students transition and how to access those services.

#### Trustee Update:

Trustees provided an update on the following.

- Renewed Math Strategy
- Information Technology Services Summer Projects
- Learning Commons Transformation Project
- Student Success – Intermediate

The next SEAC meeting will be on Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at 6:30pm at 35 Weber St. W, Kitchener.



## 'Tis the season...for Sharing & Giving PLEASE DONATE TODAY!!!

With the holiday season upon us and the warm and fuzzy feelings of family and gratitude that accompany it, we are thankful for those who make a difference in the lives of WRFN families.

This year we decided to revisit our roots as a reminder of why WRFN was originally needed and created. As one of WRFN's five founding parents, I would like to share my family's story with you while highlighting two of our current core programs.

### Meet Kevin

He was born prematurely 29 years ago weighing just 2 pounds, 1 ounce. Kevin was missing pieces of his lungs and was hooked up to every machine imaginable.

And then... the ventilator blew holes in his lungs. There were more complications. For every step forward, Kevin took two steps back. He remained in hospital, 65 kms away from our family in the ICU for the first two years of his young life. During that time, Kevin underwent five surgeries while my husband and I struggled to navigate the hospital system.

And then... Kevin came home with an entirely new system of care for us to learn about. Our home looked like a mini ICU with a stream of professionals coming and going, daily. My husband and I, and our older son, were grateful but felt isolated and alone.

For years, we wondered if there were other families traveling the same uncertain journey. And, if so, how could we meet them?

Twenty-Nine years ago there was no Waterloo Region Family Network. But, today, we are here for families when life takes an unexpected turn.

Parents benefit from our Parent Mentor Program where they are directly connected 1:1 with a volunteer parent mentor – someone who gets it and can truly understand their grief – the life they wanted for their child and the dreams they had, stolen.

Families are also directly supported by Erin, our Family Resource Coach, who provides personal guidance to each family she meets helping them to understand supports and service available to them and how to access them. The need for this role and support is increasing every day.

Erin has already supported 225 new families this year in addition to those already supported through our network. It's necessary to ensure that we continue to meet this growing need.

We could not provide these, and other programs, for families without your support. That's why we are asking for your help this year. Your donation, today, will be matched by two friends of WRFN who have once again generously committed to matching the first \$15,000 raised in our campaign.

For your convenience, you can donate online at

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/waterloo-region-family-network/campaign/2018-annual-appeal/>

Our network has already helped over 1700 families connect to vital resources in our community as well as to each other. But, we know there are many more out there who need us.

We ask that you please share this letter with a friend and help us reach our goal of \$45,000.

Together, we can make sure that no family is ever alone!

With gratitude and warm wishes for the holiday season!

Sue Simpson

Executive Director

## WRFN E.D. Recognized for Leadership

On November 19, Sue Simpson, our Executive Director, was presented with the 2018 Tribute Award for Leadership at the Empowered Kids Ontario (formerly known as OACRS) Annual Conference in Toronto.

For over 27 years, Sue has drawn on her own challenges and experiences to enhance the resiliency of her family, to share her perspective for the benefit of other families and to challenge service providers to never lose sight of the reason why they exist – to build children, youth, adults and families up so they can live their best lives.

Sue has been a driving force behind WRFN since its beginning, establishing strong and innovative relationships with school boards and many other agencies that provide supports to community members with special needs. Partnerships are a hallmark of the manner in which Sue works and leads with grace and day-by-day determination to do what needs to be done. The family is at the centre of any decisions Sue makes on behalf of WRFN.

Through Sue's leadership and clearly articulated positions, she has shifted mindsets and opened dialogues within and across the children and youth sector. She willingly shares insights and is a respected, trusted and powerful voice and advisor locally and across the province.

Sue is committed wholeheartedly to being a leader and change-maker in the quality of life for those with special needs. She has clearly indicated positive change, inspiring others as she works toward continuous improvement for the lives of people with disabilities.

Please join us in congratulating Sue on this much-deserved recognition and honour.





## What's Happening at WRFN...



PARENT & STUDENT INFORMATION EVENING

# UNDERSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

Parents and students are invited to discuss what high school will look like for Waterloo Region District School Board students with autism. Learn about the supports available in high school along with what to expect from the transition process and once you start. You will also hear from our panel which will include Parents, Advocates and Students.

**Tuesday, December 4**

**7PM - 8:30PM**

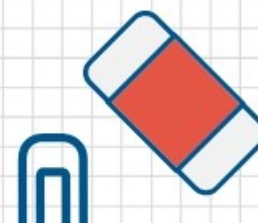
**WRDSB Education Centre**

**51 Ardel Ave. Kitchener**

**Register: <https://bit.ly/2PDLC2e>**

For more information contact Krista McCann at 519-886-9150 ext. 2 or [Krista.McCannwrfn.info](mailto:Krista.McCannwrfn.info)

Presented by:



## What's Happening at WRFN...



### SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES IN WATERLOO REGION

Thursday, December 13

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Room 2015 at The Family Centre - 65 Hanson Ave. Kitchener

Register: <https://bit.ly/2E4mJY9>

In this session you will have the opportunity to:

~ Hear highlights from the Provincial Ministry of Education Learning Disabilities Pilot Project 3-year initiative with a focus on:

- Literacy development
- Social/emotional skill development
- Parent engagement
- Use of assistive technology as an accommodation

~ Try activities that highlight supports in both school boards:

- Empower
- Social Emotional Supports
- Lexia
- Assistive technology (Google R&W, calendar)
- LD simulation

Presenters: Antonietta Leonardo WCDSB Special Education Liaison & Barbara Williams WRDSB Special Education Liaison Consultant

Supported by:



Jenkins Sauer Fund



## What's Happening at WRFN...

# Ask a Self-Advocate

Do you need to look at a challenge you are facing with a new perspective?

Would you like to bounce ideas off someone who can relate to what you, or your loved one, are going through?

Get new insight and ideas  
Discuss your questions and concerns

*Cristina was diagnosed with exceptionalities as an adult. Since then she has become active in the local special needs community serving as a mentor, public speaker, and self-advocate.*

To request an appointment online:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZPGCC3Q](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZPGCC3Q)

Or contact us for more information:

519-886-9150 ext. 4

[Erin.Sutherland@wrfn.info](mailto:Erin.Sutherland@wrfn.info)



Open to people with disabilities, their families, or professional supports

## WRFN Holiday Hours

Between Christmas and the new year we will be taking some time off to enjoy the holidays with loved ones. Our office will be closed and we will have very limited access to email between December 22 and January 1, 2019.

If you experience a crisis during this time please contact Here 24/7 by calling 1-844-437-3247.



## What's Happening at WRFN...

# Dreaming of Summer

## Finding the Right Summer Camp for your Child



Please join us for a parent education session to find out more information about summer camp options for your child. Learn about the benefits of summer camp as well as what to consider when making your decision. Tips will be shared about funding resources, 1:1 support and how to best prepare for camp.

What's next? Attend our Camp and Recreation Fair February 11th from 6-8pm at the Family Centre, Kitchener. Explore and talk with camp and recreation providers to make sure you are finding the right fit!

### Times & Locations

#### Kitchener/Waterloo

Monday, February 4, 2019

6:30pm—8pm

KidsAbility Waterloo

500 Hallmark Dr.

#### Cambridge

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

6:30pm-8pm

Cambridge City Hall , Bowman Rm

50 Dickson Street.

### Registration

If you are currently a client of KidsAbility please register by contacting Jennifer Tang

(P) 519-886-8886 ext. 1373

(E) [specialized@kidsability.ca](mailto:specialized@kidsability.ca)

If you are not a current client of KidsAbility please register with Krista McCann @ WRFN

(P) 519-886-9150 ext. 2

(E) [krista.mccann@wrfn.info](mailto:krista.mccann@wrfn.info)



Presented by:





## What's Happening at WRFN...

**School-Issue Parent Support Group**—Do you have questions/concerns about school issues for your child/youth with special needs? Join us at our peer-led parent support group. This is a great opportunity to share questions, concerns and successful tips in a safe environment while learning from others.

The support group is held the last Wednesday of every month (except December). Learn more [here](#).

**WRFN Outreach at Early ON Child & Family Centres**—Through our partnership with the local EarlyON centres we are pleased to provide monthly drop in support at EarlyON centres throughout the region. Erin is available to meet individually to discuss your concerns, no need to book an appointment. The EarlyON schedule can be found [here](#).

**Kaleidoscope Kids**—Kaleidoscope is a free drop-in program. There is no age limit, and you are encouraged to bring your children with special needs, siblings, or come by yourself.

Kaleidoscope Kids meets every Friday from 10-11:30am. Learn more [here](#).

**Communication My Way**—Communication My Way is a peer-led augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) group for all ages and levels of AAC users and their caregivers. The group aims to connect AAC users and their caregivers in a friendly environment to develop skills and create friendships. Learn more [here](#).

## Coffee Club Update

Hi Guys,

Happy December! I hope however you celebrate this season it is warm and enjoyable. Here are our activities:

We are looking to go to *Fantastic Beasts: Crimes of Grindlewald* **the week of December 3, at the theatre at 135 Gateway Park Drive in Kitchener**. Please contact me for more information.

**Monday, December 10, 7-9 PM (The Studio, 109 Ottawa Street, South):** We will be having a holiday pot-luck. Please bring a dish to share.

If for any reason you need to contact me, please use the information below:

**(519) 500-7153 (Cell Phone) E-mail: [carmen.sutherland@wrfn.info](mailto:carmen.sutherland@wrfn.info)**

Carmen

## Autism in High School

“[Autism in High School](#)” is a web-based guide to help students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families as they navigate the transitions and common challenges of high school. This website was developed as a joint initiative between Extend-A-Family, Waterloo Region Family Network, members of the former Autism Services Waterloo Region, the Waterloo Region District School Board, the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, and the University of Waterloo with generous funding from the [Sifton Family Foundation](#).

## Perfect Pitch

This fall WRFN had the opportunity to participate in Social Venture Partners' Perfect Pitch!

### What is Perfect Pitch?

Organized by SVP Waterloo Region , Perfect Pitch is a free non-profit communication workshop series where we, along with five other local charities, learned to share our organization's story and impact with power, passion, and clarity in three minutes. Over three 2-hour sessions, we learned about the elements of an effective pitch. Each organization was also paired with a team of dedicated coaches who offered individual coaching, practice opportunities, and feedback along the way. Perfect Pitch concluded with a public showcase of the pitches on November 13, where all charities presented their pitch to a live audience for a chance to win cash awards. We were so excited that our pitch was one of the Audience Choice Award winners!

Perfect Pitch was such a valuable experience! The workshops and our coaches challenged us to clearly define and communicate our uniqueness as an organization including our approach to supporting families. Getting up in front of a live audience to share our pitch stretched us out of our comfort zone and provided an incredible learning experience. We can't thank SVP enough for the opportunity to participate in this fantastic program. Thanks to Sherwood, you can [watch our live Perfect Pitch!](#)

To learn more about Social Venture Partners Waterloo Region and Perfect Pitch click [here](#).

## Reducing Holiday Stress

My name is Matthew Colombo and my dream is to be a Waterloo Regional Police Officer. I volunteer each week at Dog Guides Canada as a trainer and just graduated from the Community Ownership Program with Waterloo Regional Police and Inspector Goodman. I also volunteer at my school in the drama program and have volunteered with REACH For It! since it started. When I was asked to write this letter for other youth I was honoured to do so and to give advice to you and all children. I understand you, the holidays can be stressful for some children. Here are some ideas to reduce stress. You can...

- Decorate your room and home with things you love
- Bake cookies and decorate them
- See Santa when it's not so busy
- Do a holiday craft and have fun
- Listen to your music
- Draw ideas that make you happy
- Help a friend, teacher, family member and do something simple and small like holding open a door for them
- Smile at someone
- Go to a parade and find a spot just for you that's quiet and bring blankets
- Make lots of cards or a holiday card to make someone happy
- Watch an old movie you like
- Watch a holiday show

Matthew Colombo ; next letter to families and children coming soon. Smile and make your day!! Do good for others.

# Upcoming Events

## EVENTS

### Special Sibs—Guelph Wellington

Being a sibling can be challenging at times but also very rewarding. During this fun-filled therapeutic program, siblings will meet others who can relate, share their experiences together – both positive and negative – and learn how to understand their brother or sister better. Facilitated by a KidsAbility Social Worker and a community partner, siblings will have fun, enjoy snacks and share in activities with other kids who understand what it's like growing up as a sibling!

Recreation programming is offered for children with special needs ages 6-13 at the same time as Special Sibs (must have a sibling attend that group to participate).

For Siblings ages 6-13. The cost is \$10/child or \$20/family.

All events take place at Bulldog Interactive Fitness, 259 Grange Road, Guelph.

Individual event dates:

Monday, February 4, 6pm-8pm

Monday, April 15, 6pm-8pm

Monday, June 10, 6pm-8pm

The registration deadline is two weeks prior to each date. Call 1-888-372-3359 x6202 to register.

### Sensory-Friendly Screenings

Cineplex Entertainment in partnership with Autism Speaks Canada is delighted to present Sensory Friendly Screenings. This program provides a sensory-friendly environment for individuals with autism spectrum disorder or anyone for whom the environment is suitable and their families to view new release films in theatres across the country.

Tickets are available the Tuesday before the screening. Find more information [here](#).

Upcoming film(s):

December 8—[Ralph Breaks the Internet](#)

January 12—[Mary Poppins Returns](#)

### Upcoming Community Living Dances

Community Living dances are sponsored by KW Association for Community Living and City of Kitchener. All dances take place at the Downtown Community Centre, 35 Weber St. W. Kitchener, from 7-9:45pm.

Upcoming Dance(s):

December 7 - Holiday wishes (wear sparkly clothes)

If you have questions please contact Lillian – 519-741-9422 OR Susan 519-654-7023

# Upcoming Events

## Upcoming Events at Sunbeam

**Music Morning Café**—Come out and enjoy listening to Ryan the musician sing and play his guitar.

December 17 from 10-11am. \$10/per person

## Monthly Evening Dance

Join Sunbeam the fourth Friday of every month from 6:30-8:30pm in the Sunbeam Centre gym for a dance party. The cost is \$5 each, support person free.

Please contact Wendy at [w.king@sunbeamcentre.com](mailto:w.king@sunbeamcentre.com) to register for any of the above events.

## PROGRAMS/RECREATION

### Autism Ontario - "Waterloo Stars" Adaptive Soccer Program

Children with ASD, ages 3-18, are invited to attend 10-weeks of soccer with the Waterloo Minor Soccer Club. Siblings, ages 3-18 are also invited to join in on the fun!

The WMCS's Waterloo Stars is an adaptive program for children ages 3-18 to have a positive experience on a soccer team.

**Cost:** \$30 per child **Dates:** January 12 - March 16 **Time:** 3:00 - 4:00pm

For more information or to register click [here](#).

### Aldaview Services March break Respite Program

Aldaview Services is running a March Break Respite Program. This program is for individuals with a developmental disability in Grade 9 and up. Activities include arts and crafts, music, games, social time and much MORE! Fees are based on participants' needs and activity costs.

**Dates:** March 11 – 15, 2019 **Time:** 8:30 – 3:00

**Location:** Aldaview Services, 332 Hamilton Road, New Hamburg, (Accessible by GRT)

Contact Mary Hartman, 519-662-5172 or [mhartman@tcmhomes.com](mailto:mhartman@tcmhomes.com)

### Open Space presented by Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region

Open Space is a weekly gathering that promotes inclusion within the community by getting people together at a cafe for food, fun and conversation. In addition to weekly coffee and conversation, with the support of facilitators, attendees plan special events such as Halloween parties, and Open Mic Nights. All are welcome regardless of ability, and you do not need to be supported by Extend-A-Family to attend.

For more information, contact [Eli Winterfeld](#), by e-mail at EAF or call 519-741-0190 ext 262

### Our Place Family Resource and Early Years Centre

Our Place has shared their [December calendar](#).

Check out all the great programs they have running throughout the Region [www.ourplacekw.ca](http://www.ourplacekw.ca).



# Upcoming Events

## **PEEPS Friday Night Social Program**

Come on out, one Friday a month, meet new people, kick back and have some fun.

The program runs September to June, 6:30-8:30.

The cost is a \$5.00 donation to the Helping Hands Social Enterprise.

Visit the website to learn more at [www.lighthouseprograms.com](http://www.lighthouseprograms.com).

## **Sky Zone Sensory Jumps**

Sky Zone will turn off the music and dial down the distractions for the comfort and pleasure of their exceptional guests, friends and families. Sensory Jumps are held every Thursday from 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Sky Zone will do their best to make every effort to accommodate all jumpers.

Please call us at 519-804-4455 if you have any questions. Cost: \$15 + tax each, chaperones are free.

## **Gym Drop-In for Youth**

The Family Centre runs a drop-in gym program Monday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. This program is for youth ages 8-17 that are affiliated with Family and Children Services and/or the Family Centre Community Partners.

This is a great opportunity to get active, have some fun and try out different sports.

For more information contact [Caitlyn Morton](#).

## **SUPPORT GROUPS**

There are a number of support groups that run throughout the community on a variety of different topics. Visit the Events Calendar on our website to learn more about these opportunities: <https://wrfn.info/events/>.

Groups include, but are not limited to:

Parents for Children's Mental Health (PCMH) Support Groups (includes ADHD and general groups)

Community Mental Health Support Groups for Family & Friends (includes general and addiction groups and mental health groups)

Tick Talk Tourette Group

Mothers Addressing Autism Together

Premie Parents of Waterloo-Wellington Region (Premie POWWR)

Fathers Group—for Fathers of a child with an intellectual disability and/or autism

The A-Team Waterloo Region— A peer support group for individuals with Asperger's Syndrome

# Upcoming Events

## WORKSHOPS/TRAINING

### Woolwich Counselling Centre Presents...

Woolwich Counselling Centre has a variety of groups/workshops for parents and children.

Upcoming groups include:

**Glad to be Me** (ages 4-7) - This fun-filled children's program promotes self-esteem and self-worth.

**No Need to Fret** (ages 8-11) - Successful strategies are provided to help anxious children cope with fears and worries.

**Mindfulness** (adult) - This 6 week course will help you discover a healthier, more relaxed and focused you. To learn more about these groups contact Woolwich Counselling at 519-669-8651.

### Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Training Series for Caregivers

This is a four-night Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) training series for Caregivers hosted by Developmental Services Resource Centre.

- Learn how prenatal exposure affects the brain
- Learn how FASD impacts behaviour with a focus on executive and adaptive functioning
- Identify what is needed to support individuals living with FASD
- Learn about local resources and supports available to families

The training takes place February 6, 13, 20, 27 from 9:30am until noon.

Register with Karen Huber, FASD Coordinator at [k.huber@dscwr.com](mailto:k.huber@dscwr.com) or at 519-741-1121 ext. 2246.

Space is limited so register early.

### Upcoming Workshops at Extend-A-Family

**Exploring Interests in Community**—Exploring Interests in Community is a workshop for people who provide support and the person they are supporting to attend together. You will work together on identifying interests and connections you have in the community, explore positive possibilities and plan your goals in manageable steps.

**Inclusion Workshop**—You will learn about community inclusion and how to be with each other in a way that includes everyone. Explore 5 ingredients for quality support, hear stories from qualified facilitators who have lived experienced, and draw on the experience of everyone in the room.

**Talking About Sexuality**—This workshop that will help to inform the way we support people in understanding healthy sexuality and relationships. This workshop will address how to respond to questions about sex, masturbation, dating and other related topics.

**Understanding Conflict & Communication**—Foundations & Clearing Conflict is a two-part workshop for personal and professional development.

To learn more about these workshops please visit <https://www.eafwr.on.ca/events/category/training/>.

# Upcoming Events

## **Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County Upcoming Workshops**

Non-medication and Medication Intervention for ADHD—December 6, 2018 from 7:00-9:00pm

All workshops are \$15 for non-members, \$10 for members.

## **Developmental Services Resource Centre Waterloo Region Workshops**

DSRC has a variety of upcoming workshops. You do not need to be associated with DSRC to attend.

January 8—Helping Children with Autism Navigate the Social World

February 20—Tips for Parents of Children with Autism

To learn more about these workshops or to register go to <https://bit.ly/2y2JEhi>.

All workshops will be held in the Training Room of Developmental Services Resource Centre at: 205 – 1120

Victoria St. N., Kitchener, ON N2B 3T2

## **KidsAbility—Building and Learning Together**

This six week workshop series with a one-month follow up will provide you with weekly workshops, supported with hands-on coaching. Using the Behaviour Skills Training Model of instruction, modeling, behavioral rehearsal, and feedback, we will support you and your family in learning strategies to apply with your child on a daily basis.

Building and Learning Together will be offered throughout the year rotating through our KidsAbility locations. Please register for the series that best supports your family's commitments.

For dates and registration information visit <http://kidsability-centre-for-child-development-autism.eventbrite.com>

## **KidsAbility Specialty Workshops**

KidsAbility is offering the following upcoming workshops:

January 10, 17, 24 & 31, 6-7:30—Sleep (4 part series)

February 7, 14, 21 & 28, 6-7:30—Feeding (4 part series)

March 4 & 18, 6-7:30—Toileting (session and follow-up)

April 11, 6-7:30—What is ABA

May 9, 6-7:30—Antecedent Strategies

June 6, 6-7:30—Early Communication

To register for any of our upcoming events please visit <http://kidsability-centre-for-child-development-autism.eventbrite.com>

# Upcoming Events

## **Supporting Children on the Autism Spectrum Who Are Grieving A Death**

Andrea Warnick is a Registered Psychotherapist, Registered Nurse, and thanatologist with 20 years of experience supporting grieving children and families and communities.

This 90 minute recorded webinar focuses on supporting children with ASD who are grieving a death.

The link to the webinar can be found [here](#).

## **RESOURCES**

### **\*\*NEW\*\* KidsAbility Winter Resource Guide!**

The KidsAbility Program and Activity Guides for Winter is a great resource for local programming.

[Program and Activity Guide - Winter 2018-2019](#)

Guides can also be found on the KidsAbility website at [www.kidsability.ca](http://www.kidsability.ca)

### **Check out [FamilyCompassWR.ca](http://FamilyCompassWR.ca)!**

Find and connect to local services for children, youth and families. The website offers three doors to help you find the resources you need.

1. Search for services: a self-search database for local health, social & recreational services for children & youth.
2. I Have a Concern: Do you have a concern about your child's development? Answer a few short, confidential questions to get connected to a local organization that can help.
3. Resources for Parents: connect to Parenting Now to learn, find support and connect with other parents.

### **FASD Caregiver Consultations**

Families and service providers can have a chance to sit 1:1 with our FASD Project Coordinators to ask questions and learn more about diagnosis, financial supports, parenting strategies, recreational opportunities, ideas for school and/or community resources.

**When:** Second and Fourth Tuesday of the month. No appointment necessary. Just drop in.

**Where:** 99 Regina Waterloo Rm 208 (Waterloo Region Public Health)



# Upcoming Events

## **FREE Monthly Developmental Screening Clinic offered by Monarch House**

This monthly clinic is a free of charge service for parents to address questions and/or concerns regarding their child's development. The screenings include information on a child's speech and language skills, motor skills, problem solving skills and personal/social skills.

For children ages birth to 5.5 years old. No referrals needed. Drop ins are also welcomed.

Upcoming Date(s):

January 31, 2019                      April 25, 2019

February 28, 2019                      May 30, 2019

March 28, 2019                      June 27, 2019

All screenings are at Monarch House (641 King St. W Kitchener)

For more information email [waterloo@monarchhouse.ca](mailto:waterloo@monarchhouse.ca) or call 519-514-5770.

## **ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Wilfrid Laurier University—Research Participants Needed**

#### ***Are you the mother of a child with a developmental disability?***

Hello. My name is Laura MacGregor and I am a doctoral student at Wilfrid Laurier University. I am completing a study of mothers who have a child with a developmental disability where the child's disability interferes with typical communication. My study focuses on how mothers experience interconnection with their child and how they describe this interconnection to others, particularly health professionals. In other words, I am interested in how mothers learn to "read" their children. I am asking mothers of a child of any age who has a developmental disability as well as a communication challenge to consider participating in my study. If you are interested I would love to hear from you via [macg4706@mylaurier.ca](mailto:macg4706@mylaurier.ca) or (519) 885-3467. This study has been reviewed and approved by the university ethics committee (REB #5750).

### **Consultation: Education in Ontario**

The Ministry of Education is inviting everyone – parents, students, educators and interested individuals or organizations – to provide feedback on the education system in Ontario.

The goal is to prepare Ontario students for success, improve their academic achievement and equip them with the tools needed to enter the working world.

**Consultation closing date: December 15, 2018**

To learn more about this opportunity please visit the [website](#).

# Upcoming Events

## **KidsAbility Parent Advisory Committee**

KidsAbility is currently seeking more families for their Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). The Parent Advisory Committee solicits input from clients and families about various strategic and operational aspects of KidsAbility's work. These regular discussions help improve services by contributing to respectful, compassionate, culturally appropriate, and competent care that attempts to be as responsive to the needs, values, beliefs and preferences of clients and their family members as possible. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity please contact Denise Watson at [dwatson@KidsAbility.ca](mailto:dwatson@KidsAbility.ca).

## **KidsAbility Program & Activity Guide Input**

KidsAbility wants to make sure that the information they collect about inclusive and adapted recreation programs is easily accessible to everyone. Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey to share your thoughts on KidsAbility's Program and Activity Guide and how they can better share information about upcoming programs, services and accessible activities in our community.

Click here to take the [survey](#).