

We Invite You to Join Other Families

Over the past year several families of teens have been meeting to discuss their child's current life and trying to imagine and plan for a future after school. This group meets with other parents whose sons and daughters have finished school and who are interested in sharing the knowledge that they have gained in planning for their sons and daughters good future. The lived experience of these parents and their adult children tells us of why it is important for families to think about planning before school ends and it speaks of the rich benefits to their sons & daughters. This experience and knowledge says:

- **Planning over time is best and should start several years before school ends because:** *“School is over before you know it and more time = more opportunity = more relationships, the most important thing for our children”*
- **Planning gives an opportunity to explore a variety of options** *“ More options beyond programs and more options for a fuller life with valued roles in their community”*
- **When you wait you may end up being offered only what is available and what is available and not what you most want.** *“Having lots of time to plan made it clearer what the best choices for my daughter would be and time to put them in place”*
- **Experienced families can share knowledge of the adult developmental system, system changes, access and funding.** *“What you think you might want and get today may change by tomorrow, the best information came to me from other families”*

These conversations have been helpful for the families involved and we would like to extend an invitation to other families to be part of these discussions. For families in the Ajax Pickering area a location in Pickering can be arranged on another date in the near future. Please join us in Oshawa on **September 19th from 6:30PM to 8:30PM at:**

**Durham Association for Family Respite Services
Gathering Place
20-850 King Street West
Oshawa, ON, L1J 8N5**

For more information, please call:

**Linda Dawe, Family Leadership Initiative or Cindy Mitchell, Family Facilitator
905-436-2500 ext. 2306 905-905-436-2500 ext. 2310**