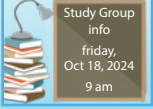




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Durham Family Resources

FAMILY *focus*

SO THAT ALL PEOPLE ENJOY A FULL AND MEANINGFUL LIFE
WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

Involved in Hiring and Guiding of Paid Supports? Here Is a Community Survey Not To Be Missed!

Are you involved in the hiring and guiding of paid supports for and with your loved one with disability? If so, here is a survey that needs to hear from you!



Many families or allies take on the role of support with energy and enthusiasm and the Ministry needs to know why this is so. What are your sources of inspiration and support, and what are the supports, ideas, and ways that sustain you in this role? Given that this is a chosen pathway that you feel strongly about continuing, what continues to be a challenge, how do you work around these, and what ideas might you have for a stronger future?

The Developmental Services Workforce Initiative (DSWI) has partnered with researchers at Queen's University to conduct this survey of managing supports with individualized funding.

Have your say by contributing to this community survey that intends to collect the experience of families who manage supports and provide to the government ideas and directions for even better ways forward. Access the survey [HERE](#).

A Sold Out Holiday Event!

are just waiting to open the doors to welcome you!

This will be our tenth annual Stories by the Fire; we are happy to know that people have remembered what a wonderful event this is and have chosen to come out and celebrate with us - we have a full house... WE'RE SOLD OUT!

This promises to be a night of fantastic stories, wonderful music, great company, and full of good cheer. You will walk away from this evening with a song in your step and a gift of possibilities in your hands.

Doors open at 6:30 and the evening will begin at 7 pm and end at 9 pm, the evening will include festive finger foods, and a chance to mingle and catch up with other families.

Stories have been gathered, the musicians are warming up, the singers are practicing their fa-la-la-la's, the food is being prepared, the surprises are being kept and now we



Stay In the Loop - Canada Disability Benefit Update

Plan Institute has just launched its Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) website. The Canada Disability Benefit is the new federal income benefit for working-aged people with disabilities and is intended to help address issues of poverty that people are currently experiencing. In the early summer of 2025, it is expected that people will be able to apply for this benefit and receipt of payments will begin in July of 2025.

To be eligible for the Canada Disability Benefit, recipients who are not already receiving this credit must apply and be approved for the Disability Tax Credit. This application has two sections, part A needs to be filled out by the person/or their family and part B needs to be filled out by a medical practitioner to certify your impairment.

Plan Institute is a strong advocate of the benefit since it was announced in September 2020 and has launched its new website, ensuring that the website offers a thorough overview of everything you need to know about the CDB, including:

- Eligibility requirements: learn if you qualify for the CDB.
- Benefit payments: find out how benefit payments will be calculated.
- DTC assistance: access valuable resources and guidance for applying for the DTC, which you will need to apply for the CDB.

The website will continue to be updated as regulations for the CDB are finalized and more details are confirmed regarding the application process. As well, the website will provide any new details from the provinces and territories about potential clawbacks of their disability income pensions, in response to this new benefit.

Plan Institute will be creating more resources to assist users in navigating the CDB application process as they receive more information. Check out the new website to see if you qualify. www.canadadisabilitybenefit.ca



Monthly Making the Most Study Group

The Making the Most Study Group is a fantastic opportunity for those who have completed the series to continue their learning and take some next steps in developing valued roles and relationships with a loved one.

Each month graduates of past Making the Most learning series are invited to come together and think more deeply about crafting and sharing a vision, designing, and planning days full of contributions and possibilities, focusing on roles rather than activities, seeking and developing good support, making positive introductions, and finding strength, comfort, and energy through building personal networks, and connecting with other families.



The meeting is open to anyone who has attended the 6-part Making the Most learning series or a MTM Weekend Retreat and wishes to join the conversation. Contact Laura Ippowell at dafrs.com for more information.

We will not be meeting in December but look forward to seeing everyone online again on Monday, January 27, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

**MakingtheMost
Study Group**

For more info contact Laura at
lpowell@dafrs.com



Families are Springing into Possibilities

The last few years have been challenging in lots of ways, and yet there have also been some good things happening for many families of school-aged children and youth!

Three Evenings of Learning:

- 1 Thursday January 23, 2025
- 2 Thursday February 6, 2025
- 3 Thursday February 20, 2025

6:45 – 8:45 p.m. via Zoom

For more information contact
Karen at 905 436 2500 x 2309
or kahudson@dafrs.com

Join us this January - February for an online, interactive, 3-part mini-series, where we will come together to talk about what is possible in our neighbourhoods and hear stories from other parents on how they have supported their children to continue to explore new interests.

At the end of the series you will leave with ideas, strategies, and confidence to plan for a summer full of discovery, and fun!

Register Here for your Zoom link!

Run in partnership with



DURHAM ASSOCIATION FOR
FAMILY RESOURCES AND SUPPORT
• One Person at a Time • Together With Families •



Imagining Home Meets Back Up In January

There will be no Imagining Home meeting in December. In the new year, we hope you'll come join the conversation! Long time and new families alike, everyone has something to gain and something to offer.

Each month at Imagining Home, we engage with anything "housing, home and community" and enjoy critical discussion, sharing stories, learning and often having a good laugh among respectful and supportive people!

Families bring a wealth of experience and knowledge and are ready to share and support others along their journey. All are welcome to attend and participate in Imagining Home when we meet on the second Wednesday of each month.

If you are new to the group and would like to attend Imagining Home for the first time, we'd ask that you first contact Erin at eoreilly@dafrs.com to arrange an introductory call.

Imagining Home Meeting • Wednesday January 8, 2024 • 6:30pm • In person

Contact Erin for Details (eoreilly@dafrs.com)



BioMedical Approaches Reflects on the Year and Looks Ahead to 2025

Come out and join in the conversation, Biomedical this month will be taking the time to reflect on the year we had, look forward to the year to come and enjoy the peace found in each other's company.

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in the Bio-Medical Approaches Study Group. We usually engage with anything "Bio-Medical" and so families talk about all the approaches, alternatives, and strategies that we have found, are being pushed into, have discovered online and more! We have a wide circle of families who are ready to share their vast experience and together we sometimes are able to help each member make better sense of the options and choices that surround them.

The group meets monthly and is open and welcoming to new and past participants! We usually meet on the second Friday of each month at 10 am for about an hour to an hour and a half.

Please RSVP to Janet at jklees@dafrs.com if you'd like to attend!



Biomedical
Study Group
Friday,
Dec 13, 2024
10am-11:30am



Next Generation Meetup

A casual get together of those who identify as the "next generation" in the support of a loved one with a developmental disability. Coming together to connect, share, and learn from one another.

Contact Rosanne for details!
rpurnwasie@dafrs.com
 (905)436-2500 ext. 2289

www.dafrs.com

Join us!

Thursday January 2nd @ 7-8pm, Thursday February 6th @ 7-8pm, Thursday March 6 @ 7-8pm, Thursday April 3rd @ 7-8pm

Email Rosanne at: rpurnwasie@dafrs.com

Important Dates At-A-Glance!

Stories by the Fire
Dec 11 @ 7pm

Bio Medical Study Group
Dec 13 @ 10am

DSWI Community Survey
Available Now

Next Gen Meetup
Jan 2 & Feb 6 @ 7pm

Springing Into Possibilities
Jan 23, Feb 6, Feb 20

Making the Most Study Group
Jan 27 @ 6:30pm

For more information,
please visit our website at
www.dafrs.com

Progress Update - Recruitment & Matching Website

The decision on the new site name is very close! Look for the official name announcement in the new year.

This new site is a recruitment resource for the whole community - a centralized platform to simplify connections between Families seeking a wide range of paid support looking for work. The platform's intuitive design helps Families connect seamlessly, creating reliable matches tailored to the support requirements of their family members.

With a welcoming, open community focus, support is no longer simply an issue for the health and social services sector, but provides an invitation to people from all parts of our community to connect for mutual benefit.

Watch this space for more information about the site launch. Please submit any questions to sciarlariello@dafrs.com and continue to use RS.com and Sandy's support as you normally would. This site continues to be in use until the new site is launched.

For more information, please visit our website, www.dafrs.com, and see the "Upcoming Events" tab.

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