

November 2022



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Durham Family Resources



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FAMILYfocus

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

Save the Date for This Year's Stories by the Fire!
Wednesday, December 14, 2022

We are approaching our eighth annual **Stories by the Fire**, and you'll want to mark your calendars so you can join us! Like last year, our *Stories by the Fire* gathering will be held online via Zoom. And again like last year, we will have good stories, good company, and good cheer!

Imagination drives vision. Hearing from the families we partner with about new ventures and next steps, challenges and successes, allows us to take opportunity this time of year to share a few stories which we know will be a gift to others.

Part of building the communities we want to be a part of includes sharing stories of what is possible. Both a natural means of communication and an art form, storytelling is a call to community; to planting the seeds of what we'd like to see more of. A crucial component of human consciousness, stories shape the way we think, feel, remember, envision, relate, and effect change. We are aware that bringing families and the community together to exchange stories and ideas has the capacity to influence how people see and interact with their surroundings, including their communities and community members.

We hope you can log on and join us, bring family and friends to hear great stories and end the year with thoughts to what is possible for you and yours this coming new year! This event has been a growing success thanks to our amazing storytellers and support from the friends, family, neighbours, and other community members.



Caleb and Carron were the crowd-pleasing MC's at last year's event

Stories by the Fire

Online via Zoom!

Wednesday, December 14th @ 7:00pm

Register Here for your Zoom Link!

Action Needed to Safeguard RDSP and Protect Inherent Capacity

The Registered Disability Savings Plan (or “RDSP”) is a popular way for many families to build savings for a family member who is eligible for the disability tax credit. Along with the potential of receiving free government funds in the form of grants and/or bonds, payments received by the recipient from their RDSP do not count toward their ODSP eligibility requirements. It is an important financial tool for many people.

In 2023, there will be a change to the requirements of this program. After this change, many Ontarians with developmental disabilities won't be able to open RDSPs or potentially access funds saved on their behalf unless they first give up their legal rights through a guardianship order. Other provinces, including British Columbia and Manitoba, already have in place legal processes so people can receive decision-making support without having to go to court or be declared incapable. We call this supported decision making, and it is a topic that DFR has been invested in pursuing and advocating for over the past several years.

A group has formed called [the RDSP Action Coalition of Ontario](#) whose mandate is to increase the uptake of the RDSP in Ontario and address barriers to opening and utilizing a Registered Disability Savings Plan.

They are addressing this injustice by urging Attorney General Downey to lift these harmful legislative restrictions.

“Guardianship removes people’s power over their own lives and is a fundamental violation of their human rights. A reality that was acknowledged by the United Nations over a decade ago.

Now, more than ever, the consequences of this inaction will take an even greater toll on the lives of people living with a developmental disability in Ontario.”

- RDSP Action Coalition of Ontario




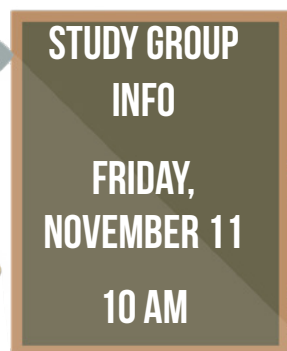
If you or someone you love use the RDSP, consider supporting the work of this group by [signing their petition](#), or [visiting their site to see other ways](#) to encourage the Government to view supported decision making as a legitimate alternative to guardianship.

Lots of Great Feedback from Recent BioMedical Approaches Study Group Survey! Thank You!

We are grateful that many people took time to provide feedback and input about the BioMedical Approaches Study Group including future topics to delve into. The survey will help us think about the best way to move ahead with this group and future Bio Medical learning. This month will be a hybrid meeting and we will get together to look at some of the results while also discussing what else the group has been looking at and thinking about.

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in the Bio-Medical Approaches Study Group when we meet on the second Friday morning of each month. We usually engage with anything “Bio – Medical” and so families talk about all of the approaches, alternatives, 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 by Zoom invite on the second Friday of each month at 10am for about an hour to an hour and a half. Reach out to Selena  if you'd like to get a Zoom link to the next meeting!



Final Imagining Home of the year! Join us as we share highlights of the year and focus on what's ahead!

This November meeting will be our last Imagining Home of the year, as we'll come together in a different way the following month for our annual Stories by the Fire event!

As we reflect on this year gone by, we have so much to celebrate around family milestones, as well as our collective successes in many areas of home and housing. Come join us and share the many highlights from the year and have your say on things we'd like to focus on going forward.

We'll also pick up from previous discussions around what influences how people are seen in our neighbourhoods, by spending some time further exploring ways to create positive and lasting impressions with potential landlords. Drawing on families' real life experiences, we'll look at the strategies families can take in terms of their individual approach, and we'll also uncover the ways in which we might have influence on a more systemic level.

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 (905) 436-2500 ext. 2511 or eoreilly@dafrs.com to arrange an introductory call.

Imagining Home Meeting • Wednesday, November 9, 2022 • 6:30pm in the Gathering Place!
Contact Erin for details (eoreilly@dafrs.com)

IMAGINING HOME MEETING • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022 • 6:30PM

ONLINE, VIA ZOOM!

CONTACT ERIN FOR DETAILS ([EOREILLY@DAFRS.COM](mailto:eoreilly@dafrs.com))



Thinking Through Progress Reports! Let's Chat!

HOW'S SCHOOL GOING?! Whether it is in person or home-based, children are resilient and will continue to learn, grow and thrive! No matter your choice - know that learning happens and we are here to support you!



This month we invite families to join us to discuss and prepare for parent-teacher meetings, what questions to ask and how to support your child's learning and development.

Let us meet in good spirit with other young families to share what we know and to discuss the possibilities that await us in this school year!

Join us, together with families on **Thursday, November 17, 2022** from 6:30pm-7:30pm to "think it through TOGETHER"

Register Here to Receive the Zoom Link Details!

Have You Attended Making the Most Family Series? Come Together to Discuss and Continue Learning!

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 circles of support, and connecting with other families. We continue to use the MTM Principles to guide our conversations and help figure out, one person at a time, how to take steps forward towards more of the Good Things of Life.



MAKING THE MOST STUDY GROUP

The meeting is open to anyone who has attended the 6-part Making The Most learning series and wishes to join the conversation. Contact Laura lpowell@dafrs.com for more information.

Next meeting is Monday, November 28th from 6:30-7:30pm via Zoom. Members are sent a link to join shortly before.

NOVEMBER 28, 2022
6:30PM TO 7:30PM

respiteservices.com

CHAP
COMMUNITY HELPERS
FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

RespiteServices.com continues connecting families to supporters! Contact Sandy for details!

Respiteservices.com is continuing to operate remotely to connect families and support workers. We know people continue to need good support during this time and are working diligently to continue to provide this service to residents of Durham Region.

To be matched with support workers, you must be registered with respiteservices.com/durham. Contact Sandy at (905)436-3404 or sciarlariello@dafrs.com. New supporters are continuing to be added. Contact Sandy for more information!

Important Dates At-A-Glance!

Imagining Home

November 9@6:30pm

Bio Medical Study Group

November 11@10am

Thinking it Through

November 17@6:30pm

Making the Most Study Group

November 28@6:30pm

Making the Most Family Learning Series

6 Sessions;
October 6, 2022 to
December 8, 2022

Stories by the Fire

December 14@7:00pm

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

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

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