



Speak Up for Ability 2021: Online Parents Forum - Program Schedule
Saturday, April 24, 10:30 am - 3:30 pm on Zoom (join anytime)

*Catching Up and Moving Forward in Education and Mental Health for
 Students with Learning Disabilities*

Event Schedule:

Please Note: You can use the Zoom link to join the forum anytime. The sessions will NOT be recorded. Please ensure you attend the sessions you are interested in live.

Time	Session Topic	Speaker
10:30 - 10:45 am	Introduction from the LDAK	LDAK President, Helen Simson
10:45 - 11:25 am	Learning Disabilities and Mental Health - Parent/Caregiver Session The Integra Program at CDI (Child Development Institute)	Amanda Daniel MSW, RSW Emma Cohen MSW Student The Integra Program at CDI
11:25 - 11:35 am	Break	LDAK Video
11:35 am - 12:15 pm	Learning Disabilities and Mental Health - Youth Session The Integra Program at CDI (Child Development Institute)	Amanda Daniel MSW, RSW Emma Cohen MSW Student The Integra Program at CDI
12:15 - 12:45 pm	Lunch	Time for a screen break!
12:45 - 1:25 pm	Limestone District School Board Learning Disabilities Support Programs and Q&A	Angela Moslinger, LD Support Program Teacher
1:30 - 2:10 pm	Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board Reaching Every Reader Initiative and Q&A	Anthea Murrell, Speech Language Pathologist

2:10 - 2:20 pm	Break	LDAK Video
2:20 - 3:20 pm	Panel Discussion	Kim Lockhart (SST) Natalie George (Educator) Jessica Duggan (Parent) Clinical Consultant, LDSB
3:20 - 3:30 pm	Closing Remarks from the LDAK	LDAK President, Helen Simson

Session Descriptions:

1. Learning Disabilities and Mental Health - the Integra Program at CDI

In this session, Amanda Daniel (MSW, RSW) and Emma Cohen (MSW Student) will be exploring the relationship between Learning Disabilities and Mental Health. They will consider what mental health issues may look like for young people and explore supportive strategies that parents/caregivers can implement. The second half of the session will be tailored towards students and focus on normalizing complex emotions and developing self-care strategies.



Amanda is a Child and Family Clinician in the Integra Program at the Child Development Institute in Toronto, a specialized program delivering clinical interventions to children and youth with co-occurring learning disabilities and mental health issues (LDMH). She brings experience in supporting children and youth who exhibit aggressive or antisocial behaviour.



Emma is a Master of Social Work student at the University of Toronto specializing in Children and their Families. Their work focuses on promoting mental health and socio-emotional development of children with learning disabilities through evidence-informed therapy practices that accommodate the child, youth and family’s strengths in learning.

2. Limestone District School Board Learning Disabilities Support Programs

The LDSB Learning Disability Support Program provides Tier Three intensive literacy intervention and self-advocacy instruction to students with learning disabilities in grades four and five. In this session, Angela Moslinger (LD Support Program Teacher) will provide an overview of the Program application requirements and process, as well as a look at the types of literacy intervention for targeted reading instruction, comprehension strategies, writing strategies and advocacy instruction offered.

3. Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board Reaching Every Reader Initiative

This presentation will explain "Reaching Every Reader", the multi-year literacy plan launched in 2020 at the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. Anthea Murrell (Speech Language Pathologist) will help parents/caregivers understand the key points behind Reaching Every Reader and how they can support their children who are learning to read.

4. Panel Discussion

In this open session, panelists will address the question, "What is the greatest challenge facing students with learning disabilities since Covid-19 and what strategy would you recommend for helping close the gaps?" From each of their unique perspectives, the panelists will discuss key themes related to the forum topic: Catching Up and Moving Forward in Education and Mental Health for Students with Learning Disabilities. Participants in the forum are invited to share comments and submit questions to the panelists in advance (via Eventbrite) and during the session (written in the Chat and via optional video/microphone).

Jessica Duggan



Jessica and her family made Kingston home in 2011. She has an awesome 11-year-old son who was diagnosed with dyslexia a few years ago, but she has been on the advocacy journey with him since he was 5-years-old. Jessica is the Director of Development & Alumni Engagement at Smith School of Business at Queen's University and volunteers as the Fundraising Chair of the International Dyslexia Association Ontario. She is also involved in their Read October initiative. It is her hope to advance the vision of the IDA to create a future for all individuals who struggle with dyslexia and other reading differences through education and advocacy.

Kim Lockhart



Kim is a French Immersion, Student Support Literacy Teacher (SST) in Kingston, Ontario. She earned her Master of Education degree from Queen's University in 2015 and focused her research on instructional practices that support students with reading difficulties in French Immersion. She created a parent resource called: "Supporting and Inspiring Your Child with Reading Difficulties in the French

Immersion Program". In 2020, Kim received her Associate level, Orton-Gillingham certificate. She has worked with the International Dyslexia Association Ontario to facilitate workshops for educators and parents of dyslexic children across Ontario. Kim volunteers her time with the LDAK and is a strong advocate for parents of students with reading disabilities. Kim has her Special Education Specialist, FSL AQ qualifications, and was awarded "One of the 50 most influential alumni in 50 years at Queen's Faculty of Education" in 2019.

Natalie George



Natalie is a French Immersion educator in Kingston, Ontario. She graduated from Brock University with a Bachelor in Child and Youth Studies in 2004 and a Bachelor of Education in 2005. Natalie received her Orton Gillingham associate training in 2018 and has her certificate in Multisensory Math Training with The Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Centre in Rockville, MD. Natalie is a consultant with Dyslexia Canada where she works to advocate for children and families with dyslexia across Canada. She has her FSL Specialist and Special Education Additional Qualifications courses. Natalie volunteers her time as a board member with Youth Diversion - a local non-profit supporting at risk youth and is a volunteer mentor with the Rise - a charity that provides people with a history of mental health or addictions a path forward toward sustained self-employment. She has also volunteered with the International Dyslexia Association.

Together, Kim and Natalie founded Lockhart-George Literacy in the Spring of 2020 with the aim to support parents and educators of students with reading disabilities, such as Dyslexia, and share information on effective reading approaches that are based on the Science of Reading. Their hope is to inspire more educators to learn about the Science of Reading, and to help parents/caregivers be stronger, more confident advocates for their children's right to quality reading instruction in the Public School System.



Our panel will also be joined by a Clinical Consultant from the LDSB!

Partners:

This forum is organized in collaboration with **United Parents (UP)**.

Donors:

This forum is made possible by donations from **Empire Life**, **OPSEU Kingston**, and **Club Optimiste Frontenac-BFC Kingston**, and contributions from **Community Spirit Gaming**. Thank you for your generous support!

