



**ONTARIO ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN  
WITH COMMUNICATION DISORDERS  
O.A.F.C.C.D. NEWSLETTER  
MAY 2000**

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## May is Speech and Hearing Month

### Special Events

All members of OAFCCD are invited to attend two special events that are taking place in May. On **May 13<sup>th</sup>, the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders, in Ottawa.** Families and professionals are invited to attend from 1pm to 4pm at the Tollgate Restaurant - Best Western Barons Hotel at 3700 Richmond Road, Bells Corner, Nepean.

The second event will take place on **Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Livingston Centre in Tillsonburg,** and will include recognition of Ronald McDonald Children's Charities of Canada for their funding of the OAFCCD Video.

The **OAFCCD video will be shown at both events,** but in Tillsonburg you will be able to meet the families who generously shared their personal stories in the video.

We encourage members to attend these events as it will provide a chance to meet the OAFCCD President and Board members, connect with other families who share your concerns and experiences, and pick up valuable information and resources. **The AGM will also feature a presentation by a panel of three Speech - Language Pathologists with ideas on how to help your child at home.**

#### Special Features of May Newsletter:

- ✓ **OAFCCD 2000 Directory of Speech and Language Summer Camps**
- ✓ **Provincial Directory of Preschool Speech and Language Systems**
- ✓ **Summer Camp - Options and Considerations**

## Preschool Initiative - What's New?

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- **Speech and Language problems are the most common problem faced by Ontario children.**
- **1 in 10 toddlers will be faced with a speech and language difficulty before they enter school**
- **No child is too young to receive services from a speech and language pathologist.**
- **Early identification and treatment for young children with speech and language problems will improve school readiness.**

The good news is that all the preschool speech and language programs are up and running and lots of excellent parent education materials have been created. As a result of increased public awareness many families are contacting the preschool services for assessments.

The increased demand is not unexpected, and many of the Preschool Speech and Language programs have developed innovative strategies to provide support to families waiting for therapy. These include drop-in programs, parent training programs, and lots of information on how you can help your child at home.

#### Key points about the Preschool Initiative:

- ✓ **Parents and caregivers can refer a child by calling the contact number in their community(See attached Directory)**
- ✓ **A Doctor's referral is not necessary**
- ✓ **All children under four years and 11 months are eligible**

**For more information contact the Preschool Speech and Language Program** in your area. **Volunteers** are always welcome to sit on committees or assist with awareness activities.

## COMING EVENTS

### Chapter Meetings:

The following Chapters would like to hold meetings in May and June. If you are interested in attending, please call the Chapter Contact.

**York Region** - Dianna Atar, (905) 709-6250

**Wellington** - Bonnie Burgess, (519) 824-6725

**London** - Carol Hawthorne, (519)474-0979

### Conferences:

**Toronto** - **Tri-Joint Congress, May 24-27, 2000.**(Canadian Associations of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists; Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists) Metro Toronto Convention Centre. **Contact: 1-800-546-9177**

**Ottawa** - **First Canadian Conference on Literacy and Health, Charting the Course for Literacy and Health in the New Millenium. May 28 - 30, Contact: (613)725-3769**

**Toronto** - **Shifting the Balance, May 28 - 30,** Conference for families and educators organized by the Education Improvement Commission. **Contact: 1-800-344-6582** or see Min.of Education Website

### Parent Workshops:

**Ajax** - **Children's Programs - Reading Readiness and Let's Chat,** starting May 6, 2000. Programs focus on reading and writing or social skills. (12 hours/\$150) **Contact: Speech, Language and Learning Centre (905)686-4800**

**London** - **"More Than Just Talking"** Workshops for parents and educators are held monthly at the London Speech and Language Centre. **Contact: Kerry Erle, (519)642-2172.**

**London** - **"Cracking the Code - Enhancing School Age Skills"** for parents and teachers who want to learn strategies for promoting literacy skills in children 6 to 8 yrs old. **Contact: Kerry Erle, (519)642-2172.**

**London** - **Coaching to Inclusion and the Integration action Group, May 12 - 13,** 2 day workshop for parents and educators. **Contact: Patty Gillis (519)642-2229**

**London** - **"Dealing with children with Attention Deficit Disorder",** May 9, To help parents develop

strategies for use at home with ADD children.

**Contact: Learning Disabilities Association of London (519)438-6213**

**London** - **Advocating for Children with Disabilities - Half day workshop May 5. Contact Ministry of Community and Social Services (519)858-2774 Ext. 2074**

**London** - **Technology, May 16** - Demonstration of Internet- accessible computer based system to support literacy/numeracy and remedial needs of students. **Contact: Learning Disabilities of London (519)438-6213**

**London** - **Language Blooms in May,** May 16 - Rhythm and Rhyme and Language Open House for families of young children at Merrymount Children's Centre. **Contact: Susanna Suchak, (519)663-5317 Ext. 2279**

**Ottawa** - **From talking to Reading and Writing - Successful Strategies for School Settings** ASHA Live Interactive Video conference, May 11, 5:30 - 10pm. **Contact: Agathe Rhéaume (613)737-8721**

**Ottawa** - **Voices of the Millenium:** A one Day Workshop on Voice, **June 9, 2000. Contact: Pam Maser, (613)798-5555 Ext. 3416**

### "Invest in Kids" and "Kids Help Phone" Announce new Parent Help Line

Watch for announcement on Mother's Day, May 14<sup>th</sup>, when the *Invest in Kids Foundation* and the *Kids Help Line* will launch a new phone service for parents. Parents will be provided with support and education about child development. Professional counsellors will be available 24 hours a day, as well as a library of recorded information. For more information on *Invest in Kids*, call **1-877-583-KIDS (5437).**

### SEAC Reps Make a Difference!!

**A big THANK YOU** to Nancy Myers and all the members of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board SEAC. It looks like their efforts to maintain speech and language services have been worthwhile. Although the final budget has not yet been set, they have made a very strong case for the maintenance of services. **OAFCCD still needs SEAC reps** in many parts of the province. If you want to find out more please **call Alison Morse at (519)688-0369**