

Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities: Professional Development at the Centre for Literacy: 2017-18 Schedule

Professional development sessions at The Centre for Literacy are open to teachers, educational assistants and other professionals in our community. Professionals in our community are invited to learn alongside Centre staff.

Foundations in Reading Remediation

Fall: Wednesday, September 20 & 27, 2017, 7-9 pm

Winter: Wednesday, February 21 & 28, 2018, 7-9 pm

Cost: \$75

Instructor: Marcia Langenberg, MEd

This session will provide an overview of the critical strategies which teachers can use to support students who are struggling to learn to read. The focus of this session will be on the use of evidence based multi-sensory strategies (hearing, seeing, and feeling) to build phonological and phonemic awareness to support a student to gain understanding of sound-symbol connections (the alphabetic principle). Secure understanding of phonological processes is a critical prerequisite for reading competency. Difficulty with phonological processes is the most common reason students struggle with literacy. Support will be provided in how to plan and deliver initial remediation strategies.

Introduction to the REWARDS Reading System

Fall: Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 7-9 pm

Winter: To be scheduled

Cost: \$40

Instructor: Judy Craig, MEd

The REWARDS Reading System is a powerful tool to support Junior and Senior High Students who continue to struggle to read. The system can also be easily adapted to work with students in the late elementary grades. REWARDS uses a morphological approach to provide students with strategies to blend word sounds, identify common word parts, approximate pronunciation, understand common prefixes, suffixes and roots, and more. REWARDS is particularly potent as an age appropriate tool that builds upon reading strengths student may have already developed. It may be used as a singular strategy or in combination with other evidence based reading remediation strategies.

Metacognitive Strategies to Support Comprehension and Writing

Fall: Wednesday, October 25 and November 1, 2017, 7-9 pm

Spring: May 9 & 16, 2018, 7-9 pm

Cost: \$75

Instructor: Yvonne Stern, MEd

Metacognitive strategies refer to methods used to help students understand the way they learn. It provides students with a structured process to think about their thinking. The National Reading Panel identifies metacognitive strategies as a critical best practice to support reading comprehension. Metacognitive strategies are highly powerful in supporting the writing process. This two part session will provide an overview on how to use Visualizing and Verbalizing, a meta-cognitive strategy developed by Nanci Bell, to support comprehension and writing in both one to one and classroom environments.

About the Centre for Literacy

The Centre for Literacy is a specialized clinic that provides evidence based remedial support to students of all ages with language or math learning disorders/disabilities. The Centre was established in 1991. Located in Edmonton, the Centre supports approximately 300 students in Edmonton and an increasing number in rural Alberta. Distance learning strategies are employed to support our clients who are unable to travel to our Centre.

The Centre is now able to extend the highly specialized staff professional development support to professionals external to the organization.

The Centre's office is accessible to individuals with mobility issues. Ample free parking is available.

Centre for Literacy

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2017-18 Schedule (Continued)

Using Games to Reinforce Reading Remediation for Students with Reading Disabilities

Fall/Winter: Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 7-9 pm

Cost: \$40

Instructor: Jenna Boschman, MA (Literacy)

Games can be used as a powerful tool to engage students and reinforce critical learning concepts. This session will place the use of games within the constructs of Universal Design for Learning. Purpose specific games and the adaptation of commercially available games will be highlighted. Specific focus will be placed on how to differentiate use of games for students with attention and executive function issues and the different types of reading disorders.

Learning Disabilities: Critical Concepts

Winter January 24, 2018, 7-9 pm

Cost: \$40

Instructor: Kathryn Burke, MA

This session will highlight new high quality research on learning disabilities (LD). It will provide an overview of the what learning disabilities are (and are not), conditions which may co-exist with LD, and what LDs look like at different stages in a student' life. Testing and its interpretation will be discussed. A brief overview will be provided on the different types of reading and math disabilities, and common terminology that is used and sometimes misused in describing the different types of learning disabilities/disorders.

Strategies for Managing Challenging Student Behaviours

Winter: March 14, 2018

Cost: \$40

Instructor: Brittanie Boyd, BEd

This practical session will highlight strategies that can be employed to manage challenging student behaviours. Information will be provided on how to analyze the possible reasons for difficult behaviours, and in how to construct a behaviour plan with a student that reinforces good behaviours and minimizes the impact of challenging action. The desired outcome is for students to be highly engaged in the process, resulting in improved educational outcomes. The instructor has worked as a behavioural consultant with children on the Autism Spectrum.