



Special Education Superintendent Update

May 2021



Every May, the TCDSB Speech and Language Department raises awareness about communication health. This year we are highlighting the rights of our students with communication disabilities.

THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT.

- Communication is the most fundamental of human capacities.
- People need to be able to communicate to fulfil their social, educational, emotional and vocational potential.
- *Everybody has the potential to communicate.*

Source: <https://internationalcommunicationproject.com/>

TCDSB speech-language pathologists help remove barriers to communication so that students can interact with others, learn, share and apply knowledge, achieve and maintain good physical and mental health, and participate in meaningful and purposeful activities.

This poster outlines the communication rights of all students, including and especially those who use Augmentative and Alternative methods of Communication.

Communication Bill of Rights
I have the right:

- to be taught how to communicate
- to be heard & responded to even if the answer is no
- to ask for what I want
- to always have & use my communication system
- to ask & know about my schedule & world
- to ask for & get attention & interaction
- to have my working communication system at all times
- to be given real choices
- to say no, refuse & reject choices
- to share my feelings
- to be treated with dignity & respect
- to be communicated with in a sensitive manner
- to be spoken WITH not about
- to be a full & equal member of my community

Celebrate MAY IS SPEECH, LANGUAGE & HEARING MONTH!
TCDSB Speech & Language Department
Communicating for Learning

Adapted from poster by Anne Page-SLP



SPECIAL SERVICES



A parenting series for all students in Behavior Intensive Support Programs is being hosted by Behaviour Matters. This series provides a forum for dialogue and strategy sharing on parenting during the pandemic.

The Social Work Department participated in a spiritual day led by Father Eugene Song focused on self-compassion and practicing the vocation of social work from a stance of compassion for others. Social Workers continue to support students and families during a time of faith renewal and dedication of time to self-care.



The TCDSB Behaviour Program presents

Fostering Social-Emotional Skills and Mental Health in Kids

.. a three-week parenting series



According to the American Psychological Association, **77% of parents of 8-12-year-olds** are feeling overwhelmed and stressed during the 2020-2121 school year.

Let us help reduce your stress by teaching you how to optimize your kids' social-emotional skills..

- 1** **Session 1: Creating Calming Spaces & Understanding Emotions and Triggers**
Date & Time: Thursday, April 29th @ 6:30pm - 8pm
- 2** **Session 2: Understanding the Mind-Body Connection & Calming/Coping Strategies**
Date & Time: Thursday, May 20th @ 6:30pm - 8pm
- 3** **Session 3: Perspective-Taking, Problem-Solving & Resilience**
Date & Time: Thursday, June 3rd @ 6:30pm - 8pm

Sessions will be held over Zoom for parents only, including worksheets and a Q&A!



[Click Here](#)

“It’s undeniable that strong social skills, emotional regulation abilities and mental health are crucial to overall success and happiness. In the best of times, we need these skill-sets to thrive; in the worst of times, we need them to survive.”

Tania DaSilva



Join Tania DaSilva, Clinical Director of Behaviour Matters, Child, Youth and Family Therapist, On-Air Expert!



Scan with phone camera to learn more!



For more information, visit www.behaviourmatters.ca





Parent and Caregiver Events

by **SURREY PLACE**

June 2021 - Event Schedule

Supporting Virtual Learning Module 1	
<p>The unexpected change to online learning has added another demand to an already stressful year. This is the first workshop in our series of supporting caregivers through this unprecedented situation. This webinar will focus on strategies and ideas to support children in navigating the online learning environment. Caregiver and teacher communication, setting up your environment, creating a routine and setting achievable expectations will be discussed.</p> <p>THIS EVENT IS FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING A PUBLICALLY FUNDED SCHOOL.</p>	<p>DATE & TIME</p> <p>June 1, 8 & 15, 2021</p> <p>10:30AM-11:30AM</p>
	<p>LOCATION</p> <p>Online</p>
	<p>LINK TO REGISTER:</p> <p>Supporting Virtual Learning Module 1</p>
Supporting Virtual Learning Module 2	
<p>This is our second module in our Supporting Virtual Learning webinar series.</p> <p>This short webinar will focus on specific ABA strategies that you can implement in the home such as prompting and reinforcement to facilitate online learning. Through the use of examples and short videos, participants will learn to identify the skills required for virtual learning and will learn to apply these strategies to the skills they plan to teach at home with their child.</p> <p>THIS EVENT IS FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING A PUBLICALLY FUNDED SCHOOL.</p>	<p>DATE & TIME</p> <p>June 3, 10 & 17, 2021</p> <p>10:30AM-11:30AM</p>
	<p>LOCATION</p> <p>Online</p>
	<p>LINK TO REGISTER:</p> <p>Supporting Virtual Learning Module 2</p>

SOUTH LOCATION:
2 Surrey Place

WEST LOCATION:
2150 Islington Ave.

NORTH LOCATION:
2 Champagne Dr.

EAST LOCATION:
10 Milner Business Ct.



SPECIAL SERVICES

WELLNESS SERVICES



Wellness Services are offered to current or past clients, families, caregivers and the broader community to proactively engage participants in their care by building awareness and enhancing knowledge, skills and resilience.

Our wide range of Wellness events provide timely services that support the changing needs of our clients across the lifespan. These are delivered through various means, including groups, workshops, clinics, drop-ins, phone-ins and Telehealth services.

Note to Participants

Please add wellness.registration@surreyplace.ca to your list of contacts. The link to join the webinars will be sent from this email address and will go to junk/spam if not added.

For more information, please call

1-833-575-KIDS (5437)

To inquire, please email: wellness.registration@surreyplace.ca

SURREY PLACE



In the month of April, the Mental Health team engaged in the following activities to support the mental health and well-being of students and staff across the system:

- Facilitated a presentation regarding *Mood Disorders* among students for 52 new teacher hires.
- Presented the *Mental Health Benefits of Generosity* at the Safe Schools' Symposium to elementary and secondary students (over 3500 students participated).
- Informed all Assessment and Programming Teachers and the Autism team members of the [Mental Health Action Kit](#) from School Mental Health Ontario. The Mental Health Action Kit includes resources such as [Faith & Wellness: A Daily Mental Health Resource](#) that offers a collection of high quality, everyday mental health practices to enhance students' social and emotional skills. As well, the Kit includes the new [Virtual Field Trips](#), a series of lesson plans to support the development of stress management and healthy coping skills in an effort to encourage use of these Social-Emotional Learning tools in the classroom.
- In collaboration with Safe Schools and Early Years, facilitated a presentation to all elementary principals *K-3 Suspension and Alternatives to Address Student Behaviours* where we presented several tools/resources to principals such as [Faith & Wellness](#), [Zones of Regulation](#) and [Kids Have Stress Too](#).
- Facilitated Staff Well-Being presentations on *How to Foster our Own Well-Being during COVID-19* for Speech and Language Pathologists and St. Joseph College staff.
- Through the Focus on Youth program, the Psychology, Social Work and Mental Health teams are helping to empower 80 student leaders with mental health literacy to help them become better leaders for students in after school programs and summer camps.
- In April, with the closure of schools and continued stringent public health measures with the third wave of COVID, the mental health team shared messages of hope and support with all staff, with staff supporting students and with [families](#).

