



Families

the heart of community

 Alberta Association for
Community Living
serving children and adults
with developmental disabilities for over 50 years

Annual Family Conference
April 10-11, 2015 Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton, AB

workshop *friday, april 10 | 9:00 am - 4:30 pm*

2 Universal Design for Learning: The Three Block Model

Presenter: Jennifer Katz, Ph.D, Assistant Professor, Inclusive Education, Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba and consultant, teacher, researcher and author of *Teaching to Diversity: The Three Block Model of Universal Design for Learning*.

Building inclusive learning communities requires students to experience school as a place where they belong, are valued, and contribute. The Three Block Model of Universal Design for Learning is an effective approach to classroom management, planning, instruction, and assessment that creates a compassionate learning community from

K-12. Developed by Dr. Katz, The Three Block Model of UDL has been implemented in elementary and high schools across three provinces, and has been shown to increase student engagement, achievement, critical thinking, self-concept, respect for diversity, prosocial behavior, and teacher satisfaction and self-efficacy for all students, including students with disabilities, students who are culturally and linguistically diverse, and students of Aboriginal descent.

Dr. Katz is the author of "Teaching to Diversity: The Three Block Model of Universal Design for Learning" and teaches courses and conducts research related to inclusion and the Three Block Model of UDL. She has been a sessional lecturer, educational consultant, classroom teacher, editor, and guidance counselor. Her work as an advocate of inclusive education and universal design for learning (UDL) has spanned several provinces and territories, and multiple audiences, including university courses, academic conferences, parent advocacy groups, educational conferences, school and division based professional development workshops, and most importantly, direct work with children and youth in schools and alternative settings.

Dr. Katz's many additional publications

include: "Resource Teachers: A Changing Role in the Three Block Model of Universal Design For Learning", "Implementing the Three-Block Model of Universal Design for Learning (UDL): Effects on teachers' self-efficacy, stress, and job satisfaction in inclusive classrooms K-12", "Leadership & Inclusion – Leading Inclusive Schools and the Three Block Model of UDL" & "The Three Block Model of universal design for learning: Implementation in a high school"

Children and Teens Welcome

Childcare and Teen Club have been a part of the Family Conference since its inception. Each day will be a new adventure filled with fun, inclusive play and hands-on experiences. The staff are professional quality caregivers / play consultants who will add a touch of magic to the day, while parents participate in the conference.

A limited number of Childcare spaces are available for children 12 and under and Teen Club spaces for 13 and up. Registration is a 2-step process. First, you absolutely must indicate on the registration form that you require a Childcare and/or Teen Club space. Second, you must also fill in a separate Childcare and/or Teen Club request form for each child and/or teenager. This form is available at www.aacl.org, by emailing mail@aacl.org or calling 1.800.252.7556 ext 400. Spaces are limited and will be filled on a first-come basis.

friday, april 10 | 9:00 am - 4:30 pm **workshop**

Pathways to a Real Home

Presenters & Facilitators: John O'Brien, Ph.D., International consultant, author, advocate, and one of the fields leading thinkers and innovators with Anne Hughson, Ph.D., Director and Associate Professor, Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary

Home, in its fullest sense, is a deep and abiding universal human necessity, across time and cultures. As children grow up within their parents' home they learn the meaning of home and the means to its creation. In the transition to adulthood, young adults typically go through a process of temporary housing arrangements (e.g., living with friends, university residences, roommates) but always with the ever present desire to move at some point to a place truly of their own. A home is integral and necessary to pursuing a safe, secure and meaningful life in community.

Yet, the majority of individuals with developmental disabilities do not yet enjoy having a place that truly reflects home as most people without disabilities understand it. Because of limits in personal finances or the imposition of government funding and rules, many individuals with developmental disabilities find themselves living in group homes or in places subject to intrusive inspections

and licensing provisions that are more reflective of facilities than homes.

In this workshop, facilitated by John and Anne, individuals with developmental disabilities and families, will share their journey to creating a real home including home ownership. If you'd like to know more about the pathway to a true home, then please consider attending what promises to be an informative and inspiring workshop.

John O'Brien, Ph.D., is a founder and lifelong advocate of Person Centered Planning. His values based approach emphasizes learning with each person about the direction their lives could take, challenging and overcoming practices, structures and values that lead to marginalization and underestimation rather than inclusion, and an approach to change based on creating more meaningful lives. He is a former Associate Editor of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. John and his wife and partner Connie Lyle O'Brien have been in the forefront

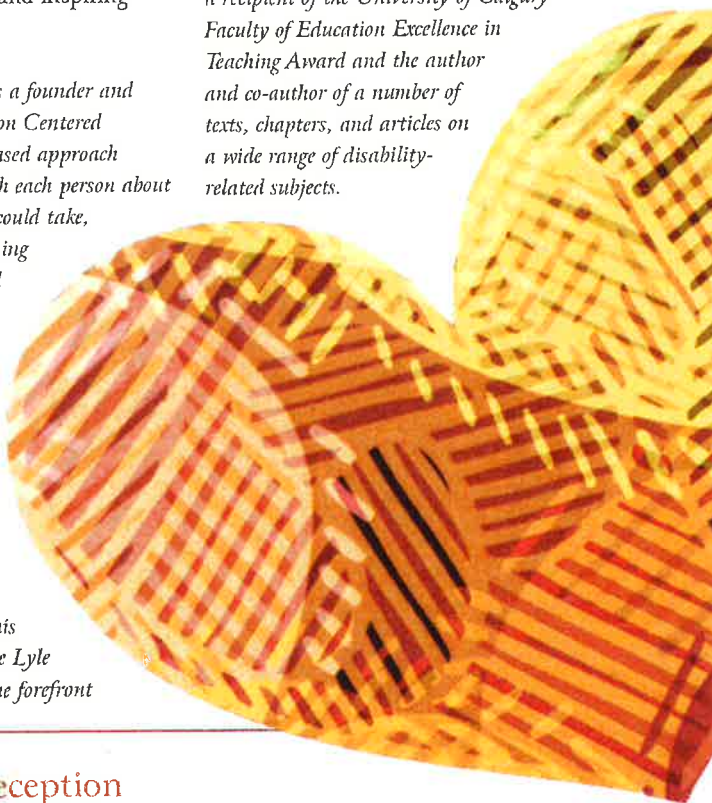
of creating precedent setting innovations that help to create full lives for people with a disability the world over. Some of John's many publications are available at <http://www.inclusion.com/jobrien.html>

E. Anne Hughson, Ph.D., is also a Registered Psychologist with an extensive background in advocacy with individuals with disabilities, their families, and parents with developmental disabilities. She is a recipient of the University of Calgary Faculty of Education Excellence in Teaching Award and the author and co-author of a number of texts, chapters, and articles on a wide range of disability-related subjects.

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President's Reception

Friday night, from 7pm – 10pm, AACL hosts its annual President's Reception – a casual evening opportunity to visit with friends and make new ones. There will be an awards ceremony to honour several individuals and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities. Soft drinks and finger foods will be available, as will a cash bar. Children are welcome to attend with their parents but please note childcare and Teen Club will NOT be available during the reception. Many find the President's Reception to be an inspiring celebration of community inclusion.





opening plenary

saturday, april 11 | 9:00 am - 10:00 am

4 Inclusive Lives: Inspiring moments

Presenters: Jennifer Katz, Ph.D., and John O'Brien, Ph.D.

Jennifer and John will share inspiring examples of how teachers, schools, communities and community members in rising to the challenge of creating

meaningful inclusion have also been inspired by their inclusion of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

youth forum (ages 16-29)

saturday, april 11 | 10:30 am - 3:00 pm

This year's Forum invites youth committed to inclusion and action to become engaged as a voice for

change. Youth are invited to contribute to future AACL actions to promote inclusion in every aspect of community

life. These actions might range from presentations on inclusion at schools to meeting with government, business and community leaders. Lunch is provided but space is limited so please ensure any interested youth complete the necessary registration forms.

closing plenary

saturday, april 11 | 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm

Inclusive Post-Secondary Education: 30 years later

Facilitator: Bruce Uditsky, CEO, AACL

In 1985, when I began the work of creating inclusive post-secondary education opportunities, young children with developmental disabilities were rarely asked what they wanted to be when they grew up and if asked, few believed in the realization of their dreams. Similarly teenagers and young

adults rarely expressed the desire to go to college or university. In this session young children with and without developmental disabilities will share their future aspirations and adults with developmental disabilities, the post-secondary faculty who taught them and their current employers will illustrate why the dreams of those young children should be honoured.

The Closing Plenary will follow the Afternoon Sessions. See page 6.





morning sessions

saturday, april 11 | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) – The Three-Block Model for Parents

Presenter: Jennifer Katz, Ph.D.

Parents want to know what their child will be learning at school and if they have been successful in that learning. Jennifer developed the 3-Block Model of UDL as a means of enabling students with developmental and other disabilities to access the regular curriculum and the social life of the classroom to ensure

Family Dance Celebration

Join us on Saturday evening from 7:00 to 11:00 pm in the Fantasyland Hotel Ballroom for a 'fantastic' family dance, finger foods and celebration. Even if you don't like to dance, it's a great opportunity to connect and celebrate. Back by popular demand, a spectacular band will keep everyone entertained and active. Although there will be entertainment for children, parents are responsible for their supervision – Childcare and Teen Club are not provided. If you wish to attend this event, please indicate this on the registration form and make the appropriate payment when submitting your registration. Please note dinner will NOT be provided but snacks, finger foods and soft drinks will be available along with a cash bar. For dinner there are numerous restaurants and a food court in the mall if you'd like something to eat before the family celebration dance.

meaningful learning and engagement of all students. In this session she will explain the fundamental principles of the Model using examples from elementary to high school classrooms.

Facilitating Community Membership

Presenters: John O'Brien, Ph.D.

A continuing challenge in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities is to facilitate their movement from community visitors or onlookers to a place of true belonging that allows for the possibility of relationships and friendships to emerge. A persistent fear of families and a far too constant experience of individuals with disabilities is one of loneliness. John will illustrate a number of strategies that can be applied to increase the likelihood of belonging and membership in community life.

Utilizing Family Managed Supports (FMS) to Create Employment

Presenters: Robin Acton, Parent, President, Alberta Association for Community Living (AACL), Human Resources Consultant; Wendy McDonald, Parent, Executive Director, Employment and Fund Development, AACL; and others

The number of families acquiring FMS (a form of individualized funding) is growing substantially across Alberta. FMS funding provides families and individuals with the means to hire

and direct their own staff however, the potential of FMS is not always being fully realized. FMS does provide a means by which individuals with developmental disabilities can be successfully employed if families have the knowledge to direct their staff in appropriately helping to find and keep employment, including facilitating relationships with co-workers. In this session Robin, Wendy and others will provide families who have FMS or who are thinking about FMS with strategies and information on how to maximize the possibilities of successful employment.

Institutionalization: Why everyone should still care

Presenters: Anne Hughson, Ph.D., Director and Associate Professor, Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, and Bruce Uditsky, M.Ed., CEO, AACL

Recently Alberta halted the closure of its last remaining large institution for individuals with developmental disabilities. While this remains a moral failure on many levels, the decision partly reflects the reality that today's generation of families, individuals with developmental disabilities and those working in the field believe institutions are a relic of the past with no current implications or presenting threats. This belief constitutes a dangerous assumption given that institutionalization continues in many forms affecting almost everyone. This session will explain why you should still care and what actions can be taken.

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afternoon sessions

saturday, april 11 | 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

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The Connection: FNMI/Aboriginal Education & The Three-Block Model of Universal Design for Learning

Presenter: Jennifer Katz, Ph.D.

Most First Nations' cultures believe children are a gift from the creator, including children with disabilities. Jennifer will illustrate how the 3-Block Model of Universal Design for Learning is connected to the sacred circle (medicine wheel) and how it can be applied so that communities are engaged in schooling practices, and students develop a sense of pride and dignity while learning in inclusive classrooms.

Person Centered Planning

Presenters: John O'Brien, Ph.D.

Many claim to practice person centered planning and yet with millions of plans in place all too few individuals with developmental disabilities experience a meaningful life. As the principal founder of person centered planning John will describe the essence of person centered planning and its appropriate role in contributing to a valued and inclusive life.

Trends, Opportunities and Advocacy Challenges: A look ahead

Presenter: Bruce Uditsky, M.Ed., Chief Executive Officer, Alberta Association for Community Living (AACL)

In this annual session Bruce will offer his perspective on future trends, challenges and opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Topics to be explored include: government direction and funding, influencing government, individualized and personalized supports, community capacity and inclusion across the lifespan. Bruce will also share AACL's plans to strengthen the inclusion movement in Alberta, particularly through the development of new local family advocacy organizations.

Promoting and Advancing Inclusion through Social Media

Presenters: Sara Protasow, Communications Coordinator, AACL and others

Social media (Twitter, texting, Facebook, etc.) are becoming, if not already, the dominant means by which information is rapidly shared across large segments of our society. If inclusion is to be sustained, promoted and advanced, then advocates of inclusion need to become adept at using social media to communicate the value of inclusion, its successes and to challenge its opponents. This session will provide practical information on how to use social media to further community inclusion.

Closing Plenary to follow.

See page 4 for details.





youth forum registration

family conference | saturday, april 11, 2015

Registration deadline: March 27, 2015. To register online visit www.aacl.org

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Alberta Association for Community Living (AACL) • 11724 Kingsway NW, Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5 • Fax: 780.453.5779 • mail@aacl.org
For Fantasyland Hotel AACL rates call 1-800-RESERVE (#2356684) by March 11, 2015. Visit aacl.org for info on other hotel options. See Youth Forum details on page 4.

Please fill out a separate form for each youth who would like to register for the forum - all information must be filled out. Please be advised that although this is a participatory workshop, support can be made available. Thank you.

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Age: _____ Do you have a disability? no yes If yes, please explain: _____

Do you require individual support? no yes Can you bring your own support person? no yes

Please explain type of support you require: _____

Do you have any medical concerns we should know about? no yes

If yes, please describe. (Please note our staff are not able to administer any medication)

Do you have seizures? no yes Do you have allergies? no yes

Please provide any precautions that must be taken for either situation: _____

Is there any additional information we need to know in order to assist you to participate in the forum? Please remember that we want all participants to be fully engaged in the forum. Thank you! _____

Participant's Signature _____ Date _____

To be completed if the youth is under the age of 18:

Health Care Number: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

conference registration

annual family conference | april 10-11, 2015

Registration deadline: March 27, 2015. To register online visit www.aacl.org

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 Include all other applicable forms (Child and Teen Programming Registration forms, Youth Forum Registration forms and Grant Applications) when submitting your
 Conference Registration form. Forms are available at www.aacl.org or by calling 1.800.252.7556 ext 400.

Adult 1 - Full Name: _____ Adult 2 - Full Name: _____

Attending with children needing child care, please see attached forms

Support Person (if applicable): _____ Association (if applicable): _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Prov/State: _____ PC/Zip: _____

Home Ph: _____ Work Ph: _____ Cell Ph: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ First time attending Family Conference? yes no

Do you or a family member have a developmental disability? yes no If yes, what age? _____

Conference Fees Please choose one:	<input type="checkbox"/> Attending Friday Only Please choose one Friday workshop: <input type="checkbox"/> Universal Design <input type="checkbox"/> Pathways to a Real Home	<input type="checkbox"/> Student: \$125 \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$175 \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$225 \$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Attending Saturday Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Student: \$125 \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$175 \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$225 \$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Attending Both Days Please choose one Friday workshop: <input type="checkbox"/> Universal Design <input type="checkbox"/> Pathways to a Real Home	<input type="checkbox"/> Student: \$200 \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$250 \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$350 \$ _____
Child and Teen Programming Fees	You must complete a Childcare and Teen Club registration form for each child participating. Please note that childcare and Teen Club will not be available during the lunch hour. Children must be picked up at noon. Registration forms available at www.aacl.org or by calling 1.800.252.7556 ext. 400.	Child & Teen Programming participants: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday only <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday only <input type="checkbox"/> Both 12 and under: \$20 x _____ \$ _____ 13 and above: \$20 x _____ \$ _____
Youth Forum Sat: 10:30 am - 3 pm (Lunch Provided)	You must complete a Youth Forum registration for each person registering. Space is limited. We will be unable to accommodate anyone who has not registered. Forms are available at www.aacl.org or by calling 1.800.252.7556, ext 400.	Youth Forum participants: Youth 16-29: \$20 x _____ \$ _____ Grants available upon request.
President's Reception Friday: 7 pm - 10 pm (Cash Bar)	Join us for an awards ceremony to honour the extraordinary contributions that several individuals have made to the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities. This is a casual event with the opportunity to mingle with friends new and old.	President's Reception participants: # of Adults: _____ no charge # of Children: _____ no charge
Family Dance Celebration Saturday: 7 pm - 11 pm (Snacks & Cash Bar)	Family Dance Celebration tickets are included for registered family members. Extra tickets may be ordered for guests. Please note dinner is not provided. Snacks and drinks will be available as well as a cash bar.	Family Dance Celebration participants: # of Adults: _____ no charge # of Children: _____ no charge Total Due \$ _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____
Total Fees	Lunch is not provided. Persons attending to support another registrant are not charged registration fees.	

Payment Options

Cheque payable to Alberta Association for Community Living VISA MASTERCARD AMEX

Card Number

Expiry Date

Signature

AACL has a limited number of grants available to individuals and families to assist with costs associated with attending the conference. For grant criteria or forms, call 1.800.252.7556 ext. 400 or download from www.aacl.org. Grant application deadline: March 13, 2015.