

Providing support to families
with children who have
barriers to learning.



North Durham Region

NEWS UPDATE — SPRING 2000

Providing Support

Parents will want to read about a new support group starting in April.

Linking Resources

Mark your calendar for a Spring Resource Conference.
page 2

Raising Awareness

Check out this excellent resource for learning disabilities.
page 2

Financial Assistance

The costs are big, but kids are worth it.
page 2



Providing Support

Parent Support Group New

Precious Minds is pleased to announce a new Parent Support Group for North Durham. Our objective is:

- To provide support and encouragement to families with children who have special needs
- To provide these families with current information
- To be familiar with education programs, community services, and other organizations

Group meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month from 9:30-11:00 A.M. meeting at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 65 Toronto St. S. (just south of the Township office) in Uxbridge. You'll find limited parking in front of the church and plenty of parking behind the church.

Two groups will meet simultaneously:

- Parents of Birth to School Age Children — Facilitated by Susan Mace, Infant Development Services
- Parents of School Age Children — Facilitated by Elisabeth Graham, Parent

Complimentary childcare will be provided. All parents from across North Durham are welcome. Please join us for our **first meeting on April 20th**.



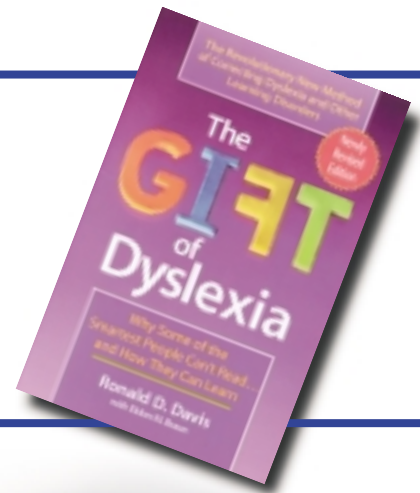
Raising Awareness

Book Review

The Gift of Dyslexia by Ron Davis

This is a must read for parents who suspect, or know, that their child has a learning disability. Ron Davis explains corrective measures for problems many people — children, teens, and adults — encounter. A valuable resource!

Available at Blue Heron Book Store, Uxbridge.



Linking Resources

The Precious Minds North Durham Resource Conference

For Parents, Professionals, Support Workers

Saturday, May 27, 2000

9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Sunderland Public School



Anyone involved with children who have special needs (mild to severe barriers to learning) will want to participate in this event.

- Information booths
- Special resource speaker
- Workshop electives
- Networking
- Support
- Awareness
- Lunch & refreshments

Registration fee: \$10 per person
\$15 per couple

Watch for registration information in April.

The Precious Minds Team

Sharon Simmonds, Elisabeth Graham,
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Laurie Noakes

Special thanks to Paul Huntington and The Lenbrook Group for their contribution to this News Update.



Financial Assistance

Over 1000 children (birth to 18 years) in North Durham are identified with mild to severe barriers to learning. Some costs for families associated with these additional needs include:

- \$1200 fee for an independent professional assessment;
- \$75-90 for one hour of speech therapy, occupational therapy, or physiotherapy;
- \$100-200 per week for one-on-one instruction;
- \$80 per month for a tutoring program;
- \$1500-3000 for various therapy programs.

Types and methods of intervention are numerous. These are basic examples, but they reflect real costs that parents are faced with as they seek to choose the best program for their child. In most cases, parents want to do everything possible to help their child, but are often restricted by finances. Based on availability of funds, Precious Minds may provide financial assistance to help families in North Durham with these extra costs. Applications can be obtained by calling our office.

Financial Supporters: Thank you to many who have sent contributions. Your generosity enables us to enhance the learning of more children. Income tax deductible receipts are provided for all financial donations.