



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

NEWS UPDATE — WINTER 2001

North Durham Region

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Providing Support

Parent Support Group

February Meeting:

Monday, February 19th
9:30 - 11:00 AM
Port Perry United Church
(southeast corner of Queen and Simcoe Streets)
Special Guest:
Dr. Mary MacDonald
Developmental Pediatrician
Currently the Medical Director at Grandview Children's Centre

Dr. MacDonald will field questions regarding children with barriers to learning including the full spectrum from mild learning disabilities to more involved developmental and physical disabilities. This is a wonderful time to chat with Dr. MacDonald and other parents, share information, and enjoy coffee, tea and something home baked. Complimentary childcare always provided.

Spring Calendar

Our parent support group usually meets on the third Thursday of each month at various locations throughout North Durham. Mark your calendars for our Spring meetings:

- **Thursday, March 22nd** in Uxbridge at St. Paul's Anglican Church
- **Special Guest: Nancy Loraine**, Public School Board Trustee
"Your Child's Education"
- **Thursday, April 19th** in Uxbridge at St. Paul's Anglican Church
- **Special Guest: Sonya Schmoll**, Occupational Therapist
"Sensory Integration"
- **Thursday, May 17th** in Cannington at Trinity United Church
Discussion Topic "Your Child's Self Esteem" with an excellent video presentation entitled *"When the Chips are Down"*
- **Thursday, June 21st** in Uxbridge at St. Paul's Anglican Church
Discussion Topic *"Preparing for the Summer Vacation"*



The Precious Minds Website

We're under construction! The Precious Minds Website at www.preciousminds.com is in progress. Now you can receive all our past newsletters from this source and within the next few months we will include even more information with our resource manual, upcoming activities, and financial application forms.



Linking Resources

MARCH BREAK

"Operation: Read!"

The Phono-Graphix® Way!

Phono- Graphix® is a new, highly effective reading instruction method which is based on the most current research. Emphasis is placed on learning sound letter(s) associations and on strategies which develop the flexibility required of students to become proficient readers. The results of this innovative approach have been excellent. A March Break "Intensive" Reading Program is being offered in which students in Grades 2-10 will receive programming for 3 hours daily over 6 days. Jump Start your child's reading ability! The course will be taught by an experienced, certified teacher who is currently completing his doctorate in the area of reading development and reading disabilities.

Dates: Monday, March 12th - Saturday, March 17th

Time: 3½ hour sessions morning or afternoon (to be determined with registration)

Location: Uxbridge Baptist Church,
corner of Brock and Balsam Streets

Cost: \$150

The cost of the program is \$200 per child. Precious Minds is subsidizing \$50 of this cost to make it financially easier for children to participate. If the cost is a barrier to anyone, please contact us. We want every child to have the opportunity to learn!

Registration: By phone...call the Precious Minds number.
Space is limited.

Literacy Program coming to Sunderland for 8 Saturdays this Spring



The Speech, Language, and Learning Centre returns! Thirty children benefited from the 8-week literacy program through the partnership of Precious Minds and the Speech, Language and Learning Centre last Fall. This Spring we are teaming up again to bring the program to Sunderland....SLLC is bringing their expertise

and PM is subsidizing the cost of this excellent learning boost for children.

If you have a child who could benefit from an enjoyable small group learning experience, this program may be exactly what you're looking for. There will be three levels including Primary (currently reading at a SK-Grade 1 level); Elementary (currently reading at a Grade 3/4 level; and Junior (currently reading at a Grade 5/6 level).

Dates: Saturdays for eight weeks beginning March 24th and ending May 19th (skipping Easter weekend)

Time: 10 AM to 12 Noon

Location: Sunderland Town Hall, lower level

Cost: \$150

The cost of the program is \$250 per child. Precious Minds is subsidizing \$100 of this cost to make it financially easier for children to participate. If the cost is a barrier to anyone, please contact us. We want every child to have the opportunity to learn!

Registration: By phone...call the Precious Minds number.



Raising Awareness

Information Seminar for Parents and Professionals

Special Guest:

Sheila Warne-Lang

Sheila Warne-Lang combines theoretical education in the fields of physiology, kinesiology, linguistics, chemistry, pharmacology, psychology, literacy and engineering with 20 years of practical experience coaching physically, mentally and emotionally challenged/gifted children and adults. She has taught brain-damaged, low-intellectual functioning, visual-processing disordered, Asperger's, dyslexic, dyspraxic, ADD, ADHD, and English as a second language students to read, listen, speak and write English fluently. The goals of her information seminar are:

- 1) to encourage skillmastery by understanding the visual, auditory and kinesthetic demands of English and mathematics; and
- 2) to teach parents/teachers how to identify the "bent" of a child and bridge skill gaps using three simple principles (balance, disorientation triggers, and learning style).

Date: Thursday, March 22nd

Time: 7:00-10:00 PM

Location: Living Water Church, Uxbridge
Located in the Testa Professional Building in front of the Hospital at the corner of Toronto St. S. and Campbell Drive.



Financial Assistance

We Can Help With Your Support

We are excited about all the families and children who are benefiting from our activities and financial assistance. Last year we estimated that there are over 1000 children in North Durham Region with mild to severe barriers to learning. Through our programs and financial assistance we've come into contact with approximately 150 of them. We want to be in a position to help even more during this next year! Will you help us in our pursuit to provide support to all families with children who have barriers to learning? Right now, your \$50 donation will pay for a child to attend March Break reading program and \$100 will support a child in the Sunderland literacy program.

Your financial contribution makes a difference! Thanks for considering how you can be part of our efforts. Tax-deductible receipts are available for all donations.

The Precious Minds Team

Sharon Simmonds, Elisabeth Graham, Bonnie Noble, Stephanie Weddel, Laurie Noakes

This publication is made possible through the generous efforts of Paul Huntington and the Lenbrook Group.