



**YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre

320 Bloomington Rd. West, Aurora, ON. L4G 0M1

Live Stream Link: <http://bit.ly/YCDSB-TV>

Questions? Please complete this form to submit any questions

Land Acknowledgement:

We are gathered on the ancestral lands and waters of all Indigenous Peoples, who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us. We respectfully acknowledge, those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now, and future generations who have yet to walk upon it. We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.

Pages

1. OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

As a new year begins, we come to You and ask for Your blessings.

We pray that you give us joy to fill our days, peace to fill our hearts and love to fill our lives.

Thank You for the plans You have for us in this new year.

We wait in anticipation to see all You will do!

Amen

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

3. ROLL CALL

4. Election of Vice Chair

5. APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL

6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

4

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

9. SEAC REPORT TO BOARD

9.a SEAC Report to Board 2026-02

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10. MOMENT OF INSPIRATION

10.a Movement Motor Break Wall Art

Presented by: M. Bancheri and C. Carrigan

11. PRESENTATIONS

7

- 11.a FASD Presentation
Presented by L. Ireland, Mackenzie Health
- 11.b Enhancing YCDSB Hearing Services
Presented by: C. Booth and L. Marchetti
- 12. **ACTION ITEM(S)**
- 13. **DISCUSSION ITEM(S)**
- 14. **INFORMATION ITEM(S)**
 - 14.a YCDSB Early Facilitation Information Night 12
 - 14.b LDAYS 13
January 2026 Monthly Report
 - 14.c Community Living Programs 16
Flyers attached
 - 14.d Easter Seals January update 18
- 15. **NOTICES OF MOTION**
- 16. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**
 - 16.a Call for Association Presentations
- 17. **NEXT MEETING**
February 9, 2026 at 6:30pm
- 18. **ADJOURNMENT**

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as stewards of the Earth .

Land Acknowledgement by YCDSB's First Nations, Métis and Inuit Steering Committee adapted with PCS by Alana Miraglia and Elaine Marshal in collaboration with SLP Department

**YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES
of the SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Monday, December 15, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: A. Grella, M. Iafrate, A. Connolly, N. Welch, N. Byrne, S. Leckey

Absent with Notice: J. Wigston, J. Man, A. Carter, D. Legris

Administration: J. Powers

Recording Officer: C. Mong

Guest(s): M. McShine-Quao, YCDSB Educational Researcher

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- 1. OPENING PRAYER**
 - 2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
 - 3. ROLL CALL**
 - 4. ELECTION OF CHAIR**
 - 5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**
 - 6. APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL**
THAT the new material be approved as presented.
 - 7. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
 - 8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S):**
THAT the Minutes of November 10, 2025, be approved as presented.
 - 9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
Nil
 - 10. SEAC REPORT TO BOARD**
 - 10.1 SEAC Board Report 2026-01**

11. MOMENT OF INSPIRATION

11.1 AAC Annual Christmas Video

This video features students who experience significant communication challenges sharing their voices with us. This year this video features 19 schools and 35 students expressing through their AAC devices and communication supports, by performing a Christmas carol.

This project is a reminder that every student has a voice and that when we support communication, we open doors to connection, confidence, and joy.

12. PRESENTATIONS

12.1 2024 Student Census

The data collected from the 2024 student census was shared. The voluntary and confidential information gathered is used to identify and address systemic inequities and to support better, more equitable outcomes for all students.

12.2 Student Services Department Update

Superintendent Powers presented a recap of programs and services delivered by the Student Services department over the last month.

13. ACTION ITEM(S)

14. DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

15. INFORMATION ITEM(S)

15.1 York Hills

15.2 Easter Seals Association Update

15.3 LDAYS December Report and program flyers

15.4 Community Living E-Connector

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

17. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

17.1 FASD Presentation

17.2 Call for future association presentations

18. NEXT MEETING

18.1 January 12, 2026 at 6:30pm

19. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 2026: 02

To: Regular Board Meeting

December 15, 2025

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held on **December 16, 2025** in a hybrid format in person at the CEC, 320 Bloomington Rd. W and virtually over Google meet.

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	A. Grella, A. Connolly, N. Byrne, M. Iafrate, S. Leckey, N. Welch,
Administration:	J. Powers, E. Strano, L. Lausic, L. Cipollone
Regrets:	D. Legris, A. Carter, J. Wigston, J. Man
Recording	C. Mong
Guests:	M. McShine-Quao, <i>Educational Researcher</i>

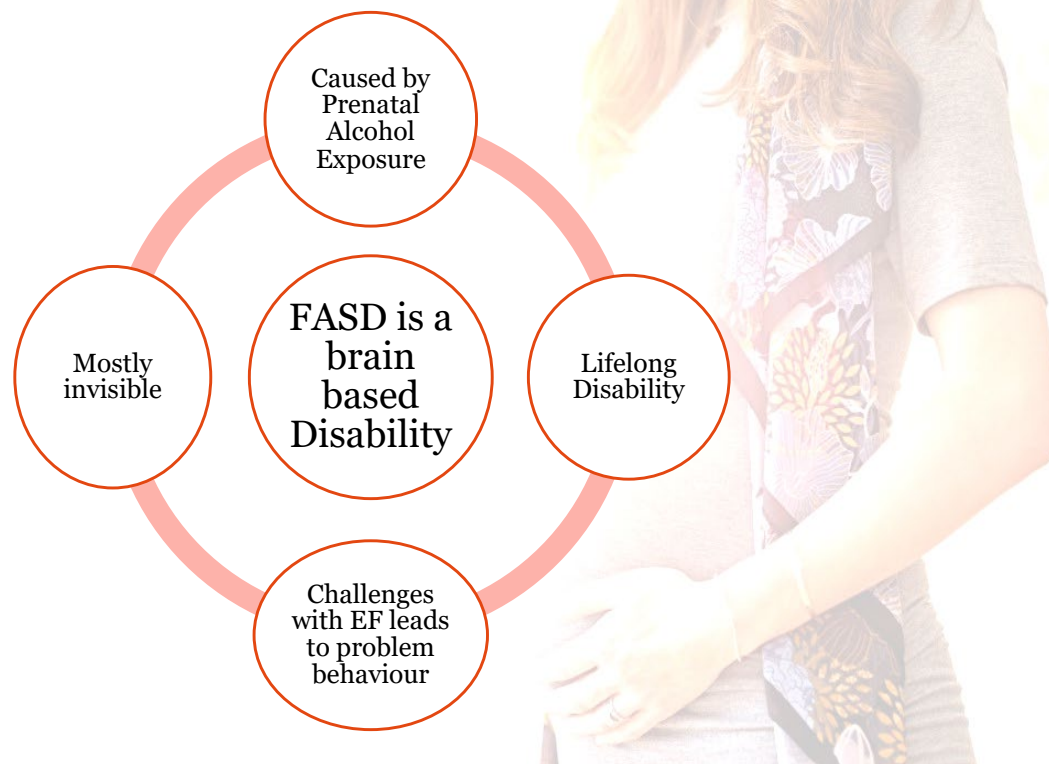
1. **ACTION ITEM(S):** NIL
2. **CORRESPONDENCE:** NIL
3. **PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS/INFORMATION:**
 - Student Census
4. **ASSOCIATION REPORTS:**
 - LDAYS: Monthly Report and programs
 - Community Living: E-Connector
 - Easter Seals Association Update
 - York Hills Winter groups and Webinars
5. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:**
 - FASD Presentation
6. **NEXT MEETING:** January 12, 2026

A. GRELLA, CHAIR, SEAC

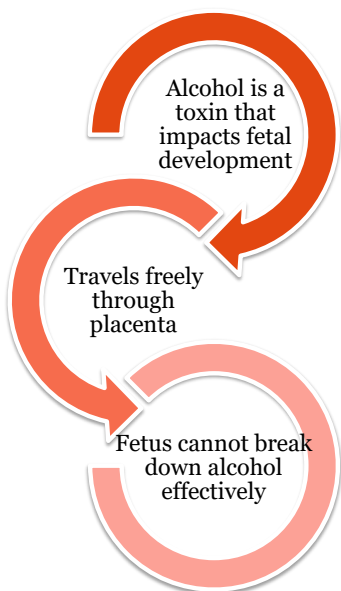
FASD Services

Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences

Lauren Ireland, M.A., RBA (Ont.) BCBA



What's Really Happening?



www.FASDONE.ca

Fetal Development Chart

Period of the Ovum	Period of the Embryo (in weeks)						Period of the Fetus (in weeks)			
1-2	3	4	5	6	7	8	12	16	20-36	38
	Central Nervous System (CNS)									
	Heart									
	Arms									
	Eyes									
	Legs									
	Teeth									
	Palate									
	External Genitalia									
	Ears									

/vulnerability of the fetus to defects during different periods of development. The dark blue portion of the bars represents the most sensitive periods of development, during which teratogenic effects on the sites listed would result in major structural abnormalities in the child. The lighter blue portion of the bars represents periods of development during which physiological defects and minor structural abnormalities would occur.

SOURCE: Adapted from Moore 1993.

7 National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Helping children & families by advocating for the prevention and intervention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, the leading known cause of mental retardation & birth defects in the United States.



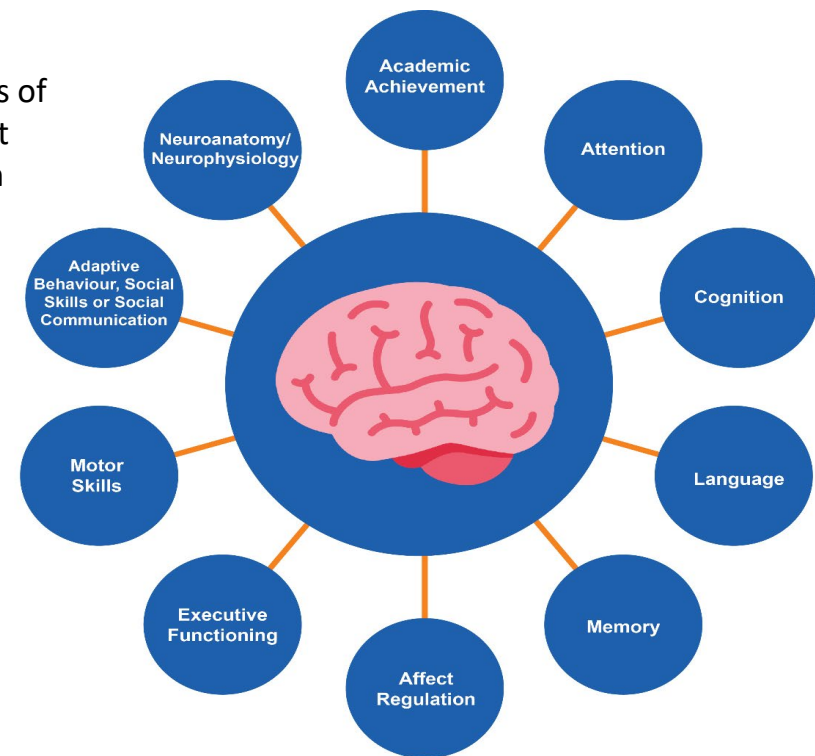
“Of all the substances of abuse alcohol produces by far the most serious neurobehavioral effects in the fetus.”



EFFECT	ALCOHOL	MARIJUANA	COCAINE	HEROIN	TOBACCO
Low Birth Weight	X		X	X	X
Facial Malformation	X				
Small Head Size	X				
Intellectual & Developmental Delays	X	X			
Hyperactivity, Inattention	X	X			X
Sleeping Problems	X	X	X	X	X
Poor Feeding	X		X		
Excessive Crying	X	X	X	X	
Higher Risk for SIDS	X			X	X
Organ Damage, Birth Defects	X				
Respiratory Problems	X			X	X

(Institute of Medicine 1996, Report to Congress)

10 Domains of Impairment Assessed in FASD Diagnosis:



FASD with Sentinel Facial Features

Facial Features
Prenatal Alcohol Exposure Confirmed or Unknown
Neurodevelopmental Assessment Confirmed Impairment in 3 or More Brain Domains

FASD without Sentinel Facial Features

No Facial Features
Prenatal Alcohol Exposure Confirmed
Neurodevelopmental Assessment Confirmed Impairment in 3 or More Brain Domains

At Risk for Neurodevelopmental Disorder

No Facial Features
Confirmed or Waiting for Confirmation Documentation
Neurodevelopmental Assessment Failed to Confirm Impairment in 3 Domains with Plausible Reason (e.g., patient too young, incomplete assessment)



STRENGTHS

- Language expression
- School-based abilities
- Cloak of competence
- Eagerness to “do better”
- Music/arts
- Helping others esp. animals and younger children

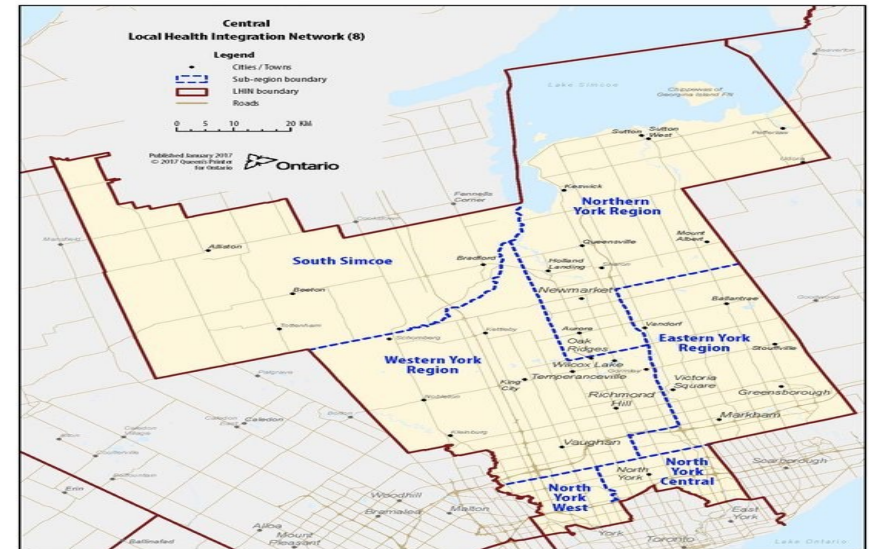
NEEDS

- Language comprehension ++
- Social skills
- Generalization
- Emotional control
- Abstract reasoning
- Executive functioning
- Accessing strategies in the moment

FASD Assessment and Diagnostic Collaborative

- Central LHIN
 - Owned by Mackenzie Health
 - Service provision through Mackenzie Health
- North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN
 - Owned by Waypoint
 - Service provision through Mackenzie Health and Waypoint (medical assessment)

Catchment Area - Central



Catchment Area - NSM



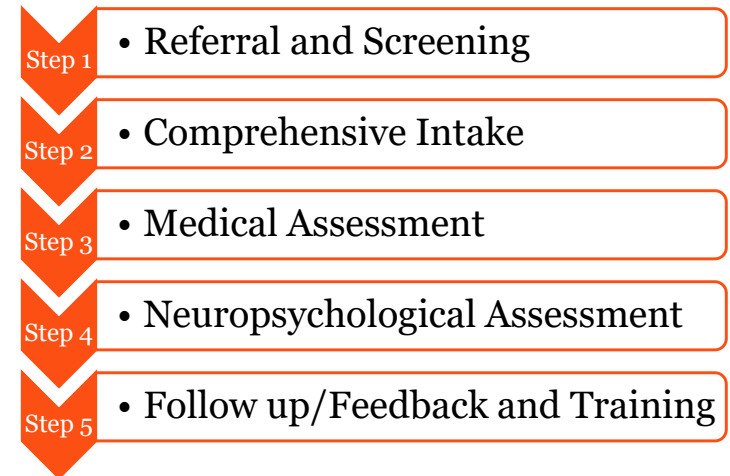
Who is Appropriate?

- Children and adults
- Suspicion/query of FASD including at least probable prenatal alcohol exposure
- Complex profile/chronic failure
 - In younger children, this may look like medical complexity/failure to thrive
 - Often have ‘alphabet soup’ of diagnoses and other treatments haven’t worked

Additional “Red Flags”

- May be parented by someone other than their biological parent
- May have confirmed drug use in utero
- Guardian may have current substance use disorder
- Client may be struggling in multiple domains of life
- Client may appear ‘non-compliant’ rather than someone with an obvious disability
- ‘Alphabet soup’ – ADHD, ODD, ASD, DMDD, conduct disorder, mental health diagnoses

What is the assessment process?



What do you need to Refer?

- Consent (client/parent/guardian)
 - Caregiver should be aware that private health information and alcohol use during pregnancy will be asked
- Submit a completed Request for Service
 - Will be contacted for intake closer to assessment time

FASD Assessment and Diagnostic Collaborative Request for Service

Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences, a department of Mackenzie Health, is funded to provide assessment/diagnosis in the Central LMDV and works in partnership with Vantagepoint Centre for Mental Health Care for service provision in the North Simcoe Simcoe LMDV.

CLIENT INFORMATION			
Name:	Telephone (H):		
Address:	Telephone (B):		
	Date of Birth:	day	month / year
Postal Code:	Gender:	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email Address:		Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
OHIP#		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONSENT SOURCE (If completed by someone other than the client)			
Name:	Telephone:		
Address:	Relationship To Client:		
Postal Code:			

I, _____ have reviewed this information and give permission for its release to
(Consent Source)

Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences, Mackenzie Health, on behalf of _____
(Client)

Consent Source Signature

Date

Client Signature

Date

Behaviour Clinic

- If you have a client who already has a FASD diagnosis and severe challenging behaviour (in living environment), they may be appropriate for referral to our behaviour clinic (serving both York and Simcoe County)
- Different referral form
 - Contact 705-728-9143 and request a referral for the behaviour clinic
 - Specify FASD on the form

Questions?

Need consultation on a potential referral?

Lauren.Ireland@mackenziehealth.ca



York Catholic District School Board

Where faith & friendship grow together

STUDENT SERVICES INFORMATION SESSION

Parents of Children with Exceptionalities Registering for
Kindergarten (Year 1 & 2)
Entering School September 2026



You are invited to attend our in person Parent Information session

Thursday, January 29, 2026 | 7:00pm – 8:30pm
CEC Boardroom – 320 Bloomington Rd. W Aurora

(This session will be live streamed)

- ✓ Hear from Special Education experts to gain valuable insights about the wide range of programs and services available to YCDSB families
- ✓ Meet with YCDSB Coordinators & Consultants as well as members from York Region Early Intervention Services and other Community Supports
- ✓ Learn about the Early Facilitation Process, the Kindergarten Program as well as services provided by the YCDSB & Community Support Agencies

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Registration Deadline: Monday, January 26, 2026



LDAYS • Learning Disabilities Association of York-Simcoe

The right to learn, the power to achieve

SEAC Reps - LDAYS Monthly Report - January 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Presentation: Understanding the Hidden Battles

Join us for a free 1-hour webinar to help parents learn how ADHD, worry, and mood affect the brain and body. You'll find out why common parenting strategies don't always work, and what you can do instead. You'll leave with simple tools to respond with more calm and confidence without ignoring your child's feelings or making their fears worse.

January 28th, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Zoom | FREE

Speaker: Terri Keay, Manager of Community Clinical Services at York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families

[Click here to register](#)

[Click here for flyer](#)

Winter 2026 PROGRAMS & SERVICES

SoAR Mindful Transition Program

For students in Grades 7 and 8, and 11 and 12 with LDs and/or ADHD. Build essential skills for school and beyond, study strategies, stress management, self-advocacy, and more.

Group Format: 4 sessions, 6 students per group

LDAYS Office (9030 Leslie St. Unit 216, Richmond Hill)

- Wednesdays, February 4 to February 25 | 5:00 PM–6:00 PM

Contact: Isabel at 905-884-7933 x7 | Isabel.khudr@ldays.org

[Click here](#) for Richmond Hill Flyer | [Click Here](#) to Register

[Information on SoAR Elementary](#) | [Information on SoAR High School](#)

Social Skills Program (Ages 7–12) *FULLY SUBSIDIZED*

Help your child build confidence, friendship skills, and emotional awareness in a fun, small-group setting. Based on the proven **PEERS® curriculum**, led by trained professionals.

Locations & Dates:

- **Richmond Hill (LDAYS Office):** Mondays, January 19th - March 2nd | 5:30–6:30 PM
- **Markham:** Tuesdays, January 27th - March 3rd | 5:00 PM–6:00 PM

Contact: Heidi at 905-884-7933 x3 | heidi.rysan@ldays.org

[Click Here](#) for more information | [Click here](#) to Register | [Click here](#) for Flyer

Full subsidies for low- and middle- income households



LDAYS • Learning Disabilities Association of York-Simcoe

The right to learn, the power to achieve

Homework & Beyond (Ages 8–12)

A drop-in program that blends academic help with social skills coaching in a positive, supportive environment. This program is partially subsidized.

Locations & Times:

Richmond Hill - LDAYS Office (9030 Leslie Street, Unit 216):

- Wednesdays, March 25th - April 29th | 4:00–6:00 PM

King Township - King Township Public Library (1970 King Rd):

- Thursdays, May 7th - June 11th | 4:00–6:00 PM

Outside the 10–12 age range? No problem, we'll arrange an intake call!

Contact Alicia: 905-884-7933 ext. 6 | alicia.carter@ldays.org
[Click Here](#) for more information | [Click here](#) to Register | [Click here](#) for Flyer

Level Up Tutoring (Grades 3–7)

Personalized virtual support in **math and literacy**, tailored for students with LDs or ADHD. Boost confidence, build skills, and support your child's learning journey with 1:1 expert tutoring.

Contact Alicia: 905-884-7933 ext. 6 | alicia.carter@ldays.org
[Click here](#) to Learn More & Register | [Click here](#) for Flyer

Reading Rocks & JUMP Math (Ages 8–14)

Targeted, 1:1 or small-group literacy and math interventions for students who are significantly behind in their curriculum. Programs run 8 weeks, twice a week. Fee assistance available.

Contact Alicia: 905-884-7933 ext. 6 | alicia.carter@ldays.org
[Learn more & register](#)
[Click Here for Reading Rocks Flyer](#)
[Click Here for JUMP Math Flyer](#)

Educational Presentations & Speaking Engagements

LD 101 Awareness Presentations – For Schools & Families

Book our 1-hour, interactive sessions for teachers, students, or parents to better understand learning disabilities and how to support all our learners. Can be in-person or virtual.

Book today: 905-884-7933 ext. 1 | info@ldays.org

Champions – Real Stories, Real Impact



LDAYS • Learning Disabilities Association of York-Simcoe

The right to learn, the power to achieve

Our Champions share powerful personal stories about living and learning with LDs and ADHD. Perfect for school assemblies, events, or community sessions.

Invite a speaker: 905-884-7933 ext. 1 | info@ldays.org

Top inquiries from parents:

- **IEP Compliance:** Several parents across multiple school boards have expressed concerns regarding IEP implementation. While teachers have demonstrated a willingness to collaborate with families and support students, parents report that not all components of IEP can be fully implemented due to limited resources, and worry for their child.

Thank you for your ongoing support, we appreciate all of the hard work you do!

Dealing with Emotions

for Adults with Special Needs

Session by experienced day program teacher!



Time: Friday, February 27

7:00-9:00PM

**Langstaff Community Center CC 155 Red Maple Rd,
Richmond Hill, Yorkshire Room**

RSVP required to:

Mika (416-566-8988) or Nancy (647-292-5555)

Space is limited.

YORK REGION SPECIAL
NEEDS FAMILIES

FREE YOGA SESSIONS!!

Location: Langstaff CC 155 Red Maple Rd,
Richmond Hill, Yorkshire Room

Starting Dates/Time

Fri, Jan 16, 2026

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Fri, Feb 20, 2026

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Fri, Mar 20, 2026

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM



All sessions are free of charge. Caregivers are
also welcome! RSVP required to:

Mika (416-566-8988) or Nancy (647-292-5555)

Space is limited.

Special Education Advisory Committee Association Update

Association: Easter Seals Ontario

Date: January 2026

Key Updates

- Easter Seals Ontario (ESO) is approving equipment requests in the order they were received. Families should not order equipment until after they receive official approval for funding.
- ESO continues to administer the Incontinence Grant and Top-Up Grant for the Ontario Ministries of Health & Children, Community and Social Services, respectively. Current wait times are as follows:
 - Incontinence Grant: 6-8 months
 - Top-Up Grant: 10-12 weeks
- ESO finished the year with successful signature events including Dancing with the Easter Seals Stars and Celebrity Hockey Classics.
- ESO is starting the year with Snowarama events across Northern and Eastern Ontario which continue to be exciting for snowmobilers and an effective fund raiser for ESO.
- As a member of PAAC on SEAC, ESO continues to support the development of resources for SEAC members and share success and concerns from SEAC members across the province.
- ESO is concerned about the Ministry of Education announcements regarding a potential change to the governance structure for school boards and the implications for SEAC.