

Community Learning Workshops

*Welcome Parents, Staff & Community
2011/2012*



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August 2011

Welcome to Our Community Learning Workshops 2011-12

The purpose of our **Community Learning** series is to create opportunities for parents, GRIT staff and the greater early learning and care community, to come together to learn together.

The most valuable asset of an organization is its people. GRIT families and staff are involved and passionate. They learn together, seek knowledge, and discover innovative practices for their work. Through constant dialogue, respect and trust, people and ideas evolve and grow.

We are pleased to share our calendar for the 2011 - 2012 program year. Each month, diverse topics of interest are offered to support our confidence and skills in meeting the needs of individual children and families during the early years.



We extend a warm invitation to GRIT parents, GRIT staff, childcare, playschool and kindergarten staff working with a GRIT child, to attend weekday workshops of their choice. Parents if you require childcare, please let us know in advance! A limited number of guest spots are available for other agencies/friends to attend. Please call the office or see our website for more information. Saturday workshops are offered as a flexible option to those unable to attend during the day. All sessions are held at the GRIT office (14930 – 114 Avenue).

Thank you for your interest in participating in our **Community of Learning**. For more information see our website at www.gritprogram.com or contact by phone 780.454.9910 or email gritprog@gritprogram.com

WEEKDAY WORKSHOPS:

*** Core:** Open to all GRIT parents, and GRIT staff who are in their first or second year with the program.

**** Options:** Open to all GRIT parents, and GRIT staff who are with the program for their third year or more.

Note: Childcare is available for GRIT families – please call the office.

Kindergartens, Playschools & Daycares

- Staff working with a GRIT child may attend workshops of their choice free of charge.
- Fees may apply to outside agencies not associated with a GRIT child this year.

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS: Advanced registration required.

GRIT PARENTS & STAFF – free of charge

OTHERS: **\$40.00** for ALL community members (e.g. kindergarten/playschool/daycare staff, etc.).



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Workshop Series at a Glance

September 27 & 28, 20115

- *Core (Tues.) ♦ The Value of Play
 ♦ Building Relationships
- **Options (Wed.) ♦ Fun, Fun, Fun!
 ♦ Adapting Curriculum

October 25 & 26, 2011

- **Options (Tues.) ♦ Having Fun in Hospital
 ♦ Emergent Literacy: The Next Steps
- *Core (Wed.) ♦ Social Stories
 ♦ Play: A Child's Work

November 29 & 30, 20116

- *Core (Tues.) ♦ Making "Sense" of the World
 ♦ Guiding Behavior
- **Options (Wed.) ♦ Finding Common Ground
 ♦ Beyond Basic Behavior

January 24 & 25, 2012

- **Options (Tues.) ♦ Goal Setting (GRIT staff only)
 ♦ Reflections (GRIT staff only)
- *Core (Wed.) ♦ Communicating with Pictures
 ♦ Observation & Assessment

March 20 & 21, 20127

- *Core (Tues.) ♦ Walls, Windows, and Doors
 ♦ Making Friends
- **Options (Wed.) ♦ Inclusion: After GRIT, Who Do You Call?
 ♦ Children's Rights

April 24 & 25, 2012

- **Options (Tues.) ♦ Making Connections
 ♦ GRIT Guys
- *Core (Wed.) ♦ The Magic of Movement
 ♦ Family Centered Practice

May 29 & 30, 20128

- (Tues.) ♦ Surprise Team Time (GRIT staff only)
 ♦ GRIT Visioning (GRIT Parents and GRIT Staff)
- (Wed.) ♦ Surprise Team Time (GRIT staff only)
 ♦ GRIT Visioning (GRIT Parents and GRIT Staff)

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS9

- October 1** ♦ Level A CPR and Child Resuscitation 1
- November 19** ♦ We Are Family: A Workshop for Parents & Siblings of a Person with a Disability
- November 26** ♦ Sign Language – Basic Sign
- January 28** ♦ Visioning Workshop – PARENTS ONLY
- February 11** ♦ Sign Language - Beyond Basic Sign



*Inclusion teaches
compassion,
understanding and
patience for all
children...*

Gloria Jean



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September 2011

Core: Tuesday, September 27

9 - 11 am The Value of Play

Play, whether motivated by actions, objects, or people, nourishes children. Play and exploration are essential to learning. Gain an understanding of play and how to set up rich play experiences that engage a child's interest. Be ready to play!

Facilitators: Brenda Skirrow & Vicki Traub

1 - 3 pm Building Relationships

The definition of relationship is "an emotional involvement or connection between people". Come and learn about building strong relationships at home, playschool and kindergarten.

Facilitators: Sherri Kirkland & Marilyn Armstrong

Options: Wednesday, September 28

9 - 11 am Fun, Fun, Fun!

Learn new play ideas in a warm environment. Discuss which techniques are best for engaging a child's interest, and which techniques work best on a variety of program goals and consultant recommendations

**Facilitators:
Twyla Bruce & Debbie Hubbard**

1 - 3 pm Adapting Curriculum

Learn adaptation strategies in the very early years, kindergarten and grade one. Effective adaptations make inclusion a stronger part of the fabric of the schools.

Facilitator: Colin Saby

Inclusion is a process of identifying, understanding, and breaking down barriers to participation and belonging.

Early Childhood Forum (2003)

October 2011

Options: Tuesday, October 25

9 - 11 am Having Fun in Hospital

Learn techniques for making a child's hospital stay more fun and playful. The environment has different rules than home, playschool or kindergarten. Practice and talk about strategies to empower yourself and help others to relax in this new environment.

Facilitator: Dianne Tuterra

1 - 3 pm Emergent Literacy: The Next Steps

Enjoy a refresher of the basics of emergent literacy, then review techniques useful in English as a Second Language situations. Some basic tips for complex learners will wrap up the workshop.

Facilitators: Maggie Gibson & Susan Bayne

Core: Wednesday, October 26

9 - 11 am Social Stories

A key strategy in supporting transitions and helping children to be well included is social stories. Participate and practice!

Facilitators: Sara Murchison & Julia Giesen

1 - 3 pm Play: A Child's Work

Everyday activities offer opportunities for children to play. Adults, as play partners, increase the warmth, delight, and participation of play and learning. Come to play!

Facilitators: Brenda Skirrow & Vicki Traub



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November 2011

Core: Tuesday, November 29

9 - 11 am

Making "Sense" of the World

Some children have more difficulty than others understanding information and participating in everyday activities. Learn what sensory processing is and how to support successful experiences for children.

Facilitators:

Gina Blank & Occupational Therapy

1 - 3 pm

Guiding Behavior

Prevent behavior problems. Plan your behavior and technique to match the child's spirit and to maintain a trusting and respectful relationship.

Facilitators: Lynn Connop & Suzanne Kahler

Options: Wednesday, November 30

9 - 11 am

Finding Common Ground

Maintain inclusion in school and in the community by ensuring that all voices are respected, heard. Quality inclusion is not achieved by fighting or winning.

Facilitator: Barb Reid & Gina Blank

1 - 3 pm

Beyond Basic Behavior

Sometimes basic behavior strategies are not enough. Gain a new perspective and learn new strategies from an experienced and practical instructor.

Facilitator: Karen Bain

*The prime function of a leader is
to keep the hope alive.*

John W Gardner

January 2012

Options: Tuesday, January 24

9 - 11 am

Goal Setting (GRIT Staff only)

Practice setting goals that will help you in your personal and professional life. Establish your objectives for your work at GRIT.

Facilitators: Marilyn Armstrong, Gina Blank & Vicki Traub

1 - 3 pm (GRIT Staff only)

Reflection

Participate in several learning activities that provide perspective, and invite balance as you reflect on your work skills and experiences.

*Staff performance appraisals occur during this time

Facilitator: Sydney Goss

Core: Wednesday, January 25

9 - 11 am

Communicating with Pictures

Explore ways you can help children become better communicators. Pictures will be used to help children to "see it" and "say it". Come away with ready to use visual ideas for developing a child's communication.

Facilitators: Julia Giesen & TBA

1 - 3 pm

Observation & Assessment

Children develop differently. Learn why GRIT assesses children's development and about the importance of accurate assessments. Early childhood checklists will be reviewed as tools to gather information to support each child's learning. Videos will help us practice.

Facilitators: Martha Doxsey & Brenda Skirrow



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March 2012

Core: Tuesday, March 20

9 - 11 am

Walls, Windows and Doors

Maintain healthy relationships. Learn about appropriate boundaries when working in a family environment. Develop solutions that are respectful.

Facilitators: Marilyn Armstrong & Sherri Kirkland

1-3 pm

Making Friends: The Basic Building Block of Inclusion

Friends equal belonging. Learn strategies for supporting and developing long lasting friendships.

Facilitators: Gina Blank & Vicki Traub

Options: Wednesday, March 21

9 - 11 am

Inclusion: After GRIT Who ELSE Do You Call?

Gateway is an Edmonton based program that supports inclusion in our community. Learn about the heart and soul of inclusion for life from this engaging parent speaker.

Facilitator: Leah McRorie

1 - 3 pm

Children's Rights

100 years ago children did not have rights. Learn about the UN charter and children's rights. Discuss the future for children with disabilities.

Facilitator: Sydney Goss

April 2012



Options: Tuesday, April 24

9 - 11 am

Making Connections

This session will include parent speakers from some Edmonton agencies that serve children with disabilities. Gain perspective on how these programs might help in your goal of lifelong inclusion for your child.

Parent Speakers: Edmonton Autism Society, CP Association, Down Syndrome Society & CNIB
Facilitator: Sydney Goss

1 - 3 pm

GRIT Guys

Attend this panel and gain perspective on a father's view of inclusion. Dads will share their GRIT experiences.

Speakers: Lloyd Thompson, Joel Lewin, TBA
Facilitator: Sydney Goss

Core: Wednesday, April 25

9 - 11 am

The Magic of Movement

Learn about motor development. Practice describing motor skills. Create ideas to playfully build up independence and motivation, including active play ideas.

Facilitators:
Rachel O'Brien & Occupational Therapy

1 - 3 pm

Family Centered Practice

Everything we do either improves or lessens a family's strength, skills, and confidence. Our actions, as professionals, directly influence the experiences and outcomes for families.

Facilitators: Marilyn Armstrong & Twyla Bruce



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May 2012

*****Come EITHER day – the choice is yours!*****

Tuesday, May 29

9 - 11 am

Surprise Team Time (Staff only)

This is a time to tie up loose ends, catch up on paperwork, reflect on the past year, and have some “surprise” fun time.

Facilitators: Gina Blank and Vicki Traub

1 - 3 pm

GRIT Visioning (Parents and Staff)

Join us for our annual celebration of GRIT’s accomplishments and take a look ahead. We look forward to building on our vision for GRIT’s core value of being a “Learning Community”. This value continues to guide GRIT’s priorities within our own program, as well as our interactions with our extended community partners.

Facilitator: Barb Reid

Wednesday, May 30

9 - 11 am

Surprise Team Time (Staff only)

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Facilitator: Barb Reid



*We are less when we
don't include everyone*

Roland Gutierrez

Saturday Workshops

✓ FREE for GRIT Staff and Parents, ✓ \$40.00 for Community Members. ✓ Bring your own lunch! ✓ Please register at least one week ahead of time and include your childcare needs. ✓ ALL Saturday Workshops are held at the GRIT office: 14930 – 114 Avenue.

Level A CPR and Child Resuscitation 1

October 1, 2011
8:30 am to 5:30 pm

Develop your skills to handle emergencies. Attend this St. John Ambulance Emergency course and meet other parents and GRIT staff. Please dress comfortably and be on time. You must attend the entire course to receive a certificate.

Instructor: Ralph Fuchs

We are Family:

For Parents & Siblings of a Person with a Disability

November 19, 2011
9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Parents:

- Share your journey with other parents
- Discuss balancing family life
- Learn to help your children live with less stress
- Reflect on wishes and dreams for you, your children, and your family

Siblings: Preschool, Elementary, or Junior High

- Participate in fun activities focused on your interests
- Meet other children with similar life experiences
- Reflect on your wishes and dreams for you, your parents and your family.

Parents and children discuss and celebrate the day together.

GRIT parents - please contact Sherri at 780 454-9910 #207 if you need at home child care for any of your children.

Parent Facilitators: Sherri Kirkland & Sydney Goss

Children's Facilitators: Selected Developmental Specialists

*Only together
can we create a future of
inclusion and unity*

Unknown

*For me, inclusion is about a community
where everyone is recognized for their
differences and everyone is belonging –
not only in our schools but in our
communities.*

Dr. Joseph Petner

Continued on next page



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Saturday Workshops (cont'd)

January 28, 2012
10:30 am to 3:00 pm

Visioning Workshop **Parents Only**

If you can see it, you can achieve it. Move hearts and open doors to a shared understanding between home and school. Explore your personal values and the meaning of inclusion. Write a vision statement to guide your son or daughter's inclusion experience.

**Facilitators: Barb Reid, Executive Director & an Alumni
GRIT Parent**

SIGN LANGUAGE

November 26, 2011
9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Basic Sign

Sign language is a creative outlet for all. Enjoy learning through playful easy activities. Basic signs can assist speech and develop language skills. Everyone can benefit from learning a few signs.

Beyond providing inclusion for persons who are hearing impaired, sign can be a fun new language for all.

February 11, 2012
9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Beyond Basic Signs

Using signing while speaking can encourage whole brain development, language and memory skills in children. Have fun, and take home new skills that build your child's use of language.



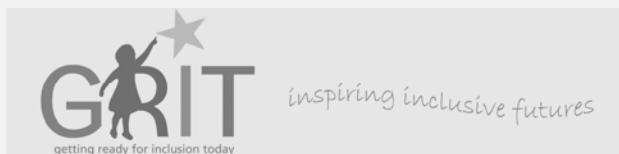
GRIT – Getting Ready for Inclusion Today

A family-centered, early childhood program ensuring all children are fully included in family life, community and school.

Led by the vision of families, The GRIT Program opened our doors in January 1982. Today, through upholding, building upon, and living the vision of inspirational families, GRIT has evolved to be a fully inclusive and individualized program supporting families and their young children 2 ½ – 5 ½ years of age.

GRIT ensures:

- ☆ All children have meaningful opportunities for joy, participation, and learning in everyday activities of childhood.
- ☆ Quality inclusion for children with special needs through providing community early childhood centers with support, resources and coaching
- ☆ Parents enhance their skills, knowledge and confidence to advocate and positively influence the future for their child and family
- ☆ Public education and awareness in support of inclusive communities.



Your donation of

Time ♦ Money ♦ Resources (gifts in kind)

Help us to support the growth and learning of children with disabilities.

Volunteers are needed for the following events:

- ♦ TBA Oilers 50/50 Event
- ♦ OCT 21st CPI Fundraiser (Wine Tasting)
- ♦ NOV 12th Surrounded by Family & Friends Fundraiser (Silent Auction)
- ♦ MAR 13th & 14th Casino

To help us at any of these events please contact Heather Luciw at 780.454.9910 or gritprog@gritprogram.com.



*A vision without a task is a dream
A task without a vision is drudgery
But a task with vision can change the
world.*

Black Elk



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