



Getting Ready for Inclusion Today Email: gritprog@gritprogram.com Website: www.gritprogram.com

The GRIT Program
Getting Ready for Inclusion Today
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Growth & Development 2009/2010



August 2009



Growth & Development Series 2009-2010

We are pleased to share the Growth & Development calendar for the 2009-2010 program year. Each month, diverse topics of interest are offered including: speech and language, sensory motor, visual impairments, behavior, gross motor development, play and more! GRIT's Growth and Development committee has been working hard to ensure learning opportunities continue to meet the individual interests of parents, staff, and our extended community partners, including playschool and kindergarten personnel.

GRIT parents, playschool and kindergarten teachers are welcome to attend **any workshop of their choice** at **no cost**. Please feel free to drop in at anytime, no pre-registration required! All sessions are held at the GRIT office (14930 – 114 Avenue). Our purpose is to provide a warm and motivating place to learn together. We welcome your participation!

GRIT staff members, please note workshops have been divided as follows:

- ▶ **CORE** workshops are for developmental specialists in their first two years of employment with The GRIT Program.
- ▶ **OPTION** workshops are intended for those developmental specialists with two or more years of experience with The GRIT Program.

NOTE CHANGE: CORE and OPTION workshops are offered on **only one day** each month and will alternate between Tuesday and Wednesday, to minimize impact on playschool attendance. This change will allow more time for consultants to schedule visits.

A huge thank you to the Growth & Development Committee for their hard work and contributions to our professional development. Committee members are:

- *Vicki Traub*, Resource Coordinator
- *Rachel O'Brien*, Physical Therapy Consultant
- *Brenda Skirrow*, Coordinating Teacher
- *Christa Lucyk*, Occupational Therapy Consultant
- *Marilyn Armstrong*, Human Resource Coordinator

If you have any questions about the Growth & Development Calendar, please contact Marilyn Armstrong at 780 454-9910, ext. 215.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Barb Reid'.

Barb Reid
Executive Director

*“The human mind, once stretched by a new idea,
never regains its original dimensions”*

Oliver Wendell Holmes

September 29th & 30th, 2009

CORE - designed for staff in their first two years of experience with GRIT.

OPTION - designed for staff building on three or more years experience with GRIT.

TUESDAY (Core)	WEDNESDAY (Option)
<p>9–11 am “LEARNING THROUGH PLAY Part A” Participants will gain understanding of the early childhood concept of “play”, “types of play”, “following the child’s lead”, “imitation, and turn-taking. In addition we will look at what the research tells us about the value of “learning through play”.</p> <p>Presenter: Martha Doxsey & Maggie Stevens, Coordinating Teachers</p>	<p>9–11 am “BEHAVIOUR BEYOND” This will be a “working” workshop, whereby challenging behavioural issues will be discussed and strategies planned in small group work. You will gain insight into how to analyze a behaviour, program for it and how to adjust programming to meet individual child and family’s needs. Basic Behavioural knowledge is essential and a prerequisite for this workshop.</p> <p>Presenter: Suzanne Kahler, Behaviour Consultant</p>
11:15 am–12:00 pm – Team Time	11:15 am–12:00 pm – Team Time
<p>1-3 pm “RELATIONAL PRACTICES” The definition of relationship is “an emotional involvement or connection between people”. This interactive workshop will discuss how families and staff define their relationships with each other, factors that contribute to relationship building, and the process of laying foundations for working relationships that promote a Family Centered approach and team collaboration.</p> <p>Presenter: Sherri Kirkland, Family Support Social Worker</p>	<p>1-3 pm “MAKING FRIENDS: PEER INTERACTIONS” Success with friends takes complex skills of initiation and understanding of social situations. This session will target the critical role of the adult in observing and responding to children to be a “friendship facilitator”.</p> <p>Presenter: Brenda Skirrow, Coordinating Teacher</p>

October 27th & 28th, 2009

CORE - designed for staff in their first two years of experience with GRIT.

OPTION - designed for staff building on three or more years experience with GRIT.

TUESDAY (Option)	WEDNESDAY (Core)
<p>9-11 am “ARTICULATION 101” In this introductory session, you will learn about the development of speech sounds and when and how to begin helping a child with articulation difficulties. Ideas for targeting speech sounds at home and in the class will also be presented to you to get you off to the right start. Presenter: Debbie Hubbard, Speech Language Pathologist</p>	<p>9-11 am “VISUAL SUPPORTS FOR EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING” Explore the power of visual strategies, (i.e. schedules, social stories), to help guide a child through the day. Learn where to start and how to make and use visuals in this, hands on workshop. Presenter: Julia Giesen, Speech Language Pathologist</p>
11:15 am–12:00 pm – Team Time	11:15 am–12:00 pm – Team Time
<p>1-3 pm “SENSORY INTERGRATION IN THE CLASSROOM” Have you worked with a child who is constantly "on the go"; who has difficulty attending at circle time, craft time, or jumps from one activity to another? Have you worked with a child who is extremely sensitive and becomes overwhelmed by sounds and movement in a busy classroom? These are a few challenges that children who have difficulties processing sensory information may encounter. This workshop will review patterns of sensory processing. It will cover common challenges that children, teachers, and support staff may encounter in a classroom, types of sensory strategies, and what a sensory diet should look like in the inclusive classroom. Presenter: Kathy Mulka, Occupational Therapist</p>	<p>1-3 pm “LEARNING THROUGH PLAY PART B” Participants will build on past learning about “play” and “learning through play”. We will learn about and practice the basic strategies of following the child’s lead, imitation and turn-taking for adult to child interactions. We will also explore how to apply these strategies to facilitate interactions with other children. Presenter: Maggie Stevens & Twyla Bruce, Coordinating Teachers</p>

November 24th & 25th, 2009

CORE - designed for staff in their first two years of experience with GRIT.

OPTION - designed for staff building on three or more years experience with GRIT.

TUESDAY (Core)	WEDNESDAY (Option)
<p>9-11 am “GUIDING BEHAVIOR” Recognize strategies to prevent potential challenges in behaviors and how to tailor your intervention, when needed, to match the child’s temperament and to maintain a positive relationship of trust and respect. Presenter: Suzanne Kahler, Behaviour Consultant</p>	<p>9-11 am “COACHING PRINCIPLES: BEYOND THE SPORTS FIELD” This interactive session will focus on the use of coaching as an adult learning strategy to support families and staff as they improve existing abilities, develop new skills, and gain a deeper understanding of his or her involvement in the lives of young children with disabilities. The characteristics of coaching are described to illustrate how coaching promotes self-reflection, refinement of practices, and views the relationship with others as one of “coach” vs. “lead player”. Presenter: TBA</p>
11:15 am–12:00 pm – Team Time	11:15 am–12:00 pm–Team Time
<p>1-3 pm “STRATEGIES AND ADAPTATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL INCLUSION” We will explore GRIT’s definition of inclusion and how that might look in the child’s home, on those first outings into the community, playschool and kindergarten. We invite you to share obstacles and successes in fully including children. Learn ways to promote full participation to enhance independence and increase meaning for the child you are supporting. Presenter: Twyla Bruce, Coordinating Teacher</p>	<p>1-3 pm “EFFECTIVE USE OF PROMPTS/ CUES” The early years are prime time for learning for all children. Most children are able to attend to the natural cues and corrections in the environments where they live, play and spend time. When children do not naturally attend to cues that assist them in becoming independent, it is important for adults to enhance those cues by providing assistance and additional prompts. This workshop will present techniques and strategies that will help the young child to focus on natural cues and corrections in the environment. Participants will have the opportunity to practice techniques and to develop a comfort with prompting, cues and correction. Presenter: Cheryl Crocker, GMCC, Disability Studies: Leadership and Community</p>