

Reach for the Rainbow
Seeing beyond disabilities since 1983

Session Schedule to follow!

22nd Annual Conference

Thursday, June 9th 2011

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Humber College, Lakeshore Campus
3199 Lakeshore Blvd, Toronto

A one-day training opportunity for camp staff
to promote integration and inclusion



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Reach for the Rainbow 22nd Annual Conference

Keynote Speaker - Heather McCracken

Heather McCracken is the founder and executive director of the Friend 2 Friend Social Learning Society based in Vancouver, BC. Heather is creator of the Friend 2 Friend (F2F) Model and programs and a mother of three (Katie, Iain and Emma), her son Iain is on the autism spectrum. Heather created the F2F Model and program over a decade ago to address the unique and sometimes challenging issues individuals on the autism spectrum face in peer relationships, play and friendships. Heather designs activities and delivers social and communication based programs to children aged 3 through 18 in schools and other community settings through North America. She is widely published and the author of *That's What's Different About Me: Helping Children Understand Autism Spectrum Disorder*, *Learners on the Autism Spectrum: Preparing Highly Qualified Educators*, *Demystifying Autism: The Friend 2 Friend Simulation Game Program*, and the soon to be released, *Can I Play Too? Build Social Relationships, Play and Friendships between Individuals on the Autism Spectrum and their Peers*, and *The Autism Code: Designing Meaningful and Measurable Social Strategies for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum*.



2010 Highlights included:

Michelle Julia Gringler Memorial Scholarships & 'Gift of Belonging' Inclusion Award
Presented by special guest Minister of Children and Youth Services, Laurel Broten,
Great Raffle Prizes, Lunch time Yoga & Ropes Demonstration!

Inspiring!

Motivational!



Positive!

Interesting!

Practical!

Fun!

Informative!

Conference Fees

\$40 for children's camps in partnership
with Reach for the Rainbow

\$60 for non-partners

BBQ Lunch and delicious snacks
are included!

Delegate Feedback:

**"I am so thankful to have learned from
people who have such
experience and insight into
these issues"**

**"Living Rhythm set an excellent
mood during lunchtime"**



Here is a sample of some of the sessions to be offered in 2011:

Joining In and Having Fun: Strategies for Campers with ASD

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders may experience difficulties with their communication skills, social interactions and behaviour. This interactive session is designed to provide practical strategies to support campers in these areas to help make their experience more successful.

ErinoakKids

Inclusive Adventure

This session is designed to help integration staff develop the knowledge and skills they will need to work alongside ropes challenge course staff in developing inclusive adventure program opportunities for their camper(s). We will discuss ropes courses & their equipment as well as strategies for designing optimum adventure challenges for campers with a variety of abilities. Ropes course trained staff is also welcome to attend and share their knowledge and experiences.

Blair Niblett, Adventureworks!

When Behaviour Challenges

There are a variety of behaviours that could surface during the camp day and it is important to be prepared with positive strategies for when the camper is having trouble effectively communicating a verbal message. This session will also address transition planning and sensory interventions for campers with a variety of disabilities.

Debbie Gillard

Adaptable Out-trip Adventures

Nicki will take you on an out-trip adventure, helping you identify and strategize about the more challenging components. The topics discussed will include: choosing a trip for all abilities, strategies to help campers overcome out-trip discomforts, finding appropriate roles for everyone, dealing with washroom concerns and of course minimizing anxieties when the sun goes down.

Nicki Wallace, Reach for the Rainbow

Artful Adaptations

Shannon will discuss how tools and techniques are continuously adapted - how our philosophical practice is applied to facilitate maximum choice and authentic engagement and participation for individuals in the context of a supportive community program. The hands-on activity will encourage solution finding for overcoming barriers to optimal participation, using low-tech, readily available and accessible tools, techniques and materials.

Shannon Crossman, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Afternoon Presentation on Epilepsy

Get informed about Epilepsy. Learn how to recognize a seizure and administer seizure first aid. Many participants who attend programs through Reach for the Rainbow are experiencing seizure disorders. This session will demystify epilepsy and remove some of the misunderstanding and fear so often associated with this disorder and illustrate how people with epilepsy are often the most amazing people you'll ever meet. Special attention will be given "Emotional First Aid" - how to understand and relate to people with epilepsy, particularly after a seizure.

Rosey Smith, Epilepsy Toronto

"Great take home resources, I am excited to apply what I have learned!"

About the Conference

The Reach for the Rainbow Conference is an annual training event for individuals who work with children, youth and young adults with disabilities in day camps, residential camps and recreational programs. The conference offers a full day of valuable workshops featuring speakers from various agencies sharing knowledge on topics like autism, epilepsy, behaviour, inclusion, physical disabilities, communication and camp related topics.



Map to Humber Lakeshore Campus



2-Lakeshore Campus
7-Kipling Subway Station

Conference Objectives

- Increased awareness of integration as an opportunity to enrich recreational programs
- New ideas for adapting activities to facilitate integration
- Confidence working with individuals with disabilities

How will you achieve those objectives?

The 22nd Annual Reach for the Rainbow Conference starts off bright and early with an 8:30 a.m. registration, followed by an inspiring Keynote Address at 9:00. Delegates will attend a total of four sessions in addition to the keynote address and an afternoon presentation on Epilepsy. There are seven topics to choose from during each session time, so there is sure to be a session that's right for everyone!



Join us June 9th, 2011 and be ready for a fun-filled day of learning!

Questions?

Contact Jen Graham at
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or visit www.reachfortherainbow.ca

