



**ldak** • Learning Disabilities  
Association of Kingston

*The right to learn, the power to achieve*

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## **LDAC Spring 2021 Newsletter**

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## LDAK Spring 2021 Update

An update from our **President, Helen Simson**, on what the LDAK has accomplished over the past six months, including the Online Outreach Initiative, and what is in store next: [Full LDAK Spring 2021 Update](#)



## Upcoming Events

### Speak Up for Ability 2021: Online Parents Forum

**April 24, 10:30 am - 3:30 pm ET (join anytime)**

Join the LDAK and United Parents (UP) on Saturday, April 24 for our FREE annual conference, Speak Up for Ability: Online Parents Forum. The topic is **Catching Up and Moving Forward in Education and Mental Health for Students with Learning Disabilities.**

Parents/caregivers, students, teachers and professionals are all welcome to register and attend virtually (any or all of the sessions you are interested in)!

Registration required: [Speak Up for Ability Eventbrite registration](#)

We have updated sessions, including presentations from both public school boards in Kingston. We will address some of the big challenges facing families and children/youth (age 8-18) with learning disabilities linked to Covid-19 and ongoing interruptions to students' learning, plus strategies for moving forward.

Sessions include **Mental Health and Learning Disabilities** from the **Integra Program at CDI** (Child Development Institute) for parents/caregivers and youth, presentations from **Limestone District School Board** and **Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board** including Q&A, and **panel discussion** with parents, teachers & professionals on key themes.

*This forum is made possible by donations from Empire Life, OPSEU Kingston, and Club Optimiste Frontenac-BFC Kingston, and contributions from Community Spirit Gaming. Thank you for your generous support!*

[Click Here to Register](#)



**SPEAK UP  
FOR ABILITY**  
P A R E N T S F O R U M

**Join our annual conference ONLINE:  
Catching Up and Moving Forward  
in Education & Mental Health for  
Students with Learning Disabilities**

**Saturday, April 24, 2021 @ 10:30 am - 3:30 pm ET**

**Sessions for parents/caregivers of children/youth with LDs, students, teachers & professionals:**

**Mental health strategies, presentations from LDSB & ALCDSB, and panel discussion**

**Join any or all sessions! Register to get the Zoom link: <https://buff.ly/3rkTsgM>**

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## 2021 National Virtual Conference by the LDAC

**May 28, 11:00 am - 5:30 pm ET**

The Learning Disabilities Association of Canada is hosting their 2021 Virtual Conference on the topic of Closing the COVID Gap: Supporting Literacy, Numeracy, and Social Emotional Learning for Students with Specific Learning Disorders. Register before April 15 for a discount.

[Details of the LDAC conference on our website](#)

Registration required: [LDAC Eventbrite registration](#)

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## Connection in the Time of COVID: 2021 Parent Conference

**May 5, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET**

The International Dyslexia Association Ontario and Decoding Dyslexia Ontario offer this free online event. The conference includes parent discussion groups and a presentation update from the Ontario Human Rights Commission lead lawyers for the Right to Read Inquiry looking into human rights issues affecting students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system.

Registration required: <https://www.idaontario.com/2021-parent-conference/>

## Other LDAK News

### LDAK 2020 Survey Results

This past fall, 20 parents/caregivers in Kingston and area participated in our survey on current challenges and options for online support - Thank you for sharing your views and experiences with us!

[Full summary of the LDAK survey results on our website](#)

Parents' views on accommodations, challenges faced by families during Covid-19, desired information, and a parent support group were collected.

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# Resources

## LDAK Webinars

If you missed any of our webinars, all of the webinar recordings, presentation slides, and handouts can be accessed on the **LDAK 'Events' page** under 'Webinar Recordings' here: <https://www.ldakingston.com/meetings-workshops>

### Check out the following webinar recordings and resources:

1. Parent Advocacy: Navigating Support Services for Your Child  
*Lockhart George Literacy*
2. Supporting Your Child with a Learning Disability in French Immersion at Home and School  
*Lockhart George Literacy*
3. Making Successful Transitions in Education for Students with Learning Disabilities: Life After High School & Remote Learning at All Ages  
*Gail Eaton-Smith*

### Webinar Survey:

If you attended any of our webinars, we would love to hear your feedback! [LDAK post-webinar survey](#)

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## LDAK Video Series

Access the LDAK short video series designed by our fourth year Queen's University BNSc students on tips for remote learning, useful anytime for supporting children's learning at home.

Episode 1 on **Organizational Strategies** and Episode 2 on **Mental Health** can be streamed here:

<https://www.ldakingston.com/resources-06-mental-health-and-ld>

Don't forget to check out the **LDAK 'Resources' page** for additional information for parents/caregivers and educators, with resources on mental health, assistive technology and more: <https://www.ldakingston.com/resources>

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# Structured Literacy

## 1. [Structured Literacy Works, But What Is It?](#)

International Dyslexia Association

## 2. [Structured Literacy in the French as a Second Language Classroom: Webinar Recording](#)

The International Dyslexia Association of Ontario and Lockhart George Literacy present the importance of research-based reading instruction for students with learning disabilities in FSL programs and how to implement a Structured Literacy approach to meet the learning needs of all students.

## 3. [Support Your Struggling Reader: Pre-Recorded Online Workshops](#)

[Workshop 1](#)

[Workshop 2](#)

[Workshop 3](#)

[Workshop 4](#)

From Lockhart George Literacy and the Kingston Frontenac Public Library, learn the skills and strategies needed to implement Structured Literacy at home and in the classroom (recorded Q&A period included).

## 4. [Implementing Structured Literacy in the Kindergarten Classroom: A Three-Part Webinar Series](#)

From Emily Moorhead (teacher at the LDSB) and the International Dyslexia Association of Ontario, a kindergarten teacher's guide to implementing Structured Literacy.

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## Community Groups & Resources

- [Lockhart George Literacy \(Facebook group with resources\)](#)
- [United Parents-UP \(parent led support group\)](#)
- [The Reading Clinic \(local fee-based service\)](#)

- [ADHD Support Group](#)
  - [Kingston Frontenac Public Library and Centre for Equitable Library Access \(collection of accessible online materials in French and English, including for kids and teens with LDs\)](#)
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## **Ontario Resources**

- [LD@home Resources for Families of Students with LDs \(Kindergarten to Grade 8\)](#)
  - [School Mental Health Ontario Covid-19 Family Resources](#)
  - [Ontario Human Rights Commission Right to Read Inquiry](#)
  - [International Dyslexia Association Ontario Branch](#)
  - [Government of Ontario Covid-19 Support for Families](#)
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## **LDAK Resource Centre Update**

As of July 1, 2020 the Resource Centre has closed. We are working behind the scenes and operating a virtual office, so please continue to contact us by email or phone (info below) and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

# Get Involved

## Volunteers

The LDAK is actively seeking board members and would especially welcome individuals who have marketing or fundraising experience.

[List of Our Current Board Members](#)

The LDAK also needs volunteers for our Charity Bingos when it is safe to resume activities (volunteers must be 18 years and older).

If you are interested, please email: [ldak@ldakingston.com](mailto:ldak@ldakingston.com)

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## Membership Application

We encourage all individuals interested in Learning Disabilities to become a member of the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO), and by doing so automatically become a member of the LDAK chapter.

For further details, please visit the "Get Involved" page of the LDAK website: <https://www.ldakingston.com/get-involved>

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Access previous **LDAK newsletters** here:  
<https://www.ldakingston.com/newsletters>

Click on the icons below to **join us on social media and the LDAK website** to get the latest updates, event news and resources!



### Disclaimer

*THE LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION does not endorse or recommend any of the facilities listed or any of the methods, programmes, products or treatments offered by such facilities.*

*Our aim is to keep the community informed about services and facilities that are available to people with learning disabilities.*

*We urge consumers and service providers to review carefully any programmes and services listed in order to select those which will meet most appropriately the identified needs of the person with learning disabilities.*