



2023 Empowered Families Conference

This event is for parents and caregivers of children living with disabilities offering free educational seminars from local professionals. The topics discussed will focus on Complex and Challenging behaviours, and Positive Parenting for Sensitive kids.

Saturday February 25th 2023 from 9:00am-3:00pm
Maples Collegiate 1330 Jefferson Ave Winnipeg, MB



Childcare & accessibility arrangements (video/recording) available

Register to Attend Here: <https://tinyurl.com/bde4vd4y>

For more information or supports please visit our website:
inspirecommunityoutreach.ca or email:
info@inspirecommunityoutreach.ca



**REAL CANADIAN
SUPERSTORE**



SEVEN OAKS
SCHOOL DIVISION
community begins here

miba
Manitoba Brain Injury
ASSOCIATION



RELIABLE MOBILITY

 **Huddle NorWest**



Empowered Families Conference 2023 Agenda

8:30-9:00am Registration, welcoming and refreshments. Childminding support, resource sharing

9:00-9:30am Networking, resource fair

9:30-11:30am “Understanding Complex Behaviours” seminar by Melissa Schofield

The proposed topic of this presentation will include an introduction to neurodiversity in our community (Trauma, ADHD, Autism, FASD, and others) and what the emerging best practices mean for education and care. Focusing on how neurodiversity intersects and impacts behavior (e.g. aggression); adapting environment to invite and support learning to learn; exploring how to increase short and long-term stabilization; and building on strength, sharing strategies, tools, and resources to support continued growth and learning.

9:30-11:30am “Advocacy and Schooling” seminar by Alexandra Beasse

The proposed topic of this presentation will include understanding school planning documents, common areas of student plans, understanding your school team, a caregiver’s role in student planning, communication: being heard and staying informed, staying organized, and helpful tools & resources to use when you are overwhelmed.

11:30-12:30pm Lunch Break, networking, resource fair

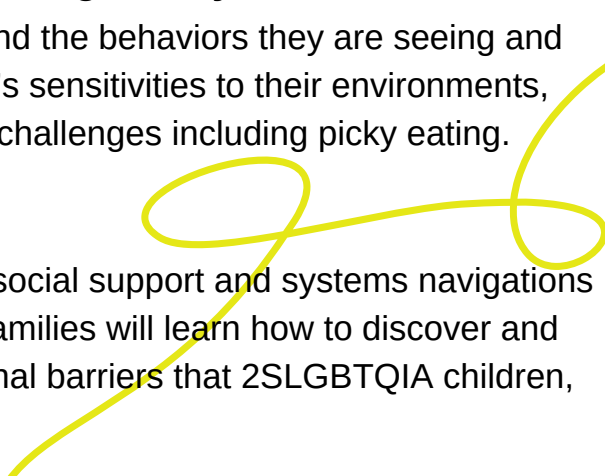
12:30-1:00pm Finding a moment of peace—guided meditation

1:00-3:00pm “Neurodiversity and Sensitivity in Parenting ” seminar by Angela Taylor

The proposed topic of this presentation will be around helping parents/caregivers understand the behaviors they are seeing and what to do about it. Specifically, topics that will be addressed include neurodivergent youth’s sensitivities to their environments, not listening, “challenging” behaviors such as aggression, anxiety/worrying, and nutritional challenges including picky eating.

1:00-3:00pm “Gender Equity Support” seminar by Charlie Eau

The proposed topic of this presentation will demonstrate a gender-equity lens to providing social support and systems navigations to kids and families living at the axes of neurodiversity, queerness, and gender diversity. Families will learn how to discover and best meet the needs of their rainbow kids, and learn strategies from stories of the exceptional barriers that 2SLGBTQIA children, caregivers, and families have overcome to keep our families safely together.



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Meet Our Empowered Families Conference 2023 Speakers

Melissa Schofield

Melissa is a Registered Social Worker, having completed a Bachelor of Social Work degree at the University of Manitoba. Melissa's experience includes intervention with individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders, behavioural management, caregiver/parent support, trauma, aggression expression, addiction, attachment disorders, needing sex education, age of majority transitioning. Melissa has gained her experience by working with children, youth, and families- recognizing their strengths and empowering them to reach emotional and psychological well-being. She has dedicated her career to working with children, teens and young adults who live with mental health concerns, neurological disabilities, justice system involvement, addictions and/or experience parent/child conflict. Melissa has extensive knowledge on navigating government programs/supports within Manitoba, and enjoys working alongside individuals and families to help them make choices that fit best for their lives and the future they want.



Alexandra Beasse

Alexandra is a lifelong learner with lived experience caring for neurodivergent youth as a mother of a child with several neuro-complexities. In addition to being a parent, Alexandra has obtained degrees in Social Development Studies and Social Work at both the Bachelors and Masters levels. Currently she is studying Equitable Community Change at Cornell University as a part-time distance education student. Alexandra is also the Executive Director of the Manitoba Brain Injury Association and lives a successful life with her own neurodiversities. She is most passionate about and committed to social justice issues that are happening in our community.



Angela Taylor

Angela Taylor is the Founder and CEO of Inspire Community Outreach, a charity supporting families that include children with disabilities. Angela is a mental health and accessibility expert, specializing in complex neurology and behaviour with 23 years of experience supporting the community. She takes an eclectic therapeutic approach that includes attachment, cognitive behaviour therapy, positive psychology and CPS model (Collaborative & Proactive Solutions) supports. She is a first-voice, living with multiple neurodivergencies, and is currently completing her PhD focusing on effective care of individuals who live with complex neurology and behaviour. She is the author to 3 books, including Forever on Fire, A Love Letter to Never Fitting In, and supports multiple clinical teams throughout Canada.



Charlie Eau

Charlie Eau (they/them) is a parent, artist, activist, newly-queerly-wed, and settler who is raising their family in Treaty 1 Territory. They co-created both Gender Cafe and Trans Manitoba; these projects connect Two Spirits, trans, and nonbinary folks who advocate for human rights while learning to care collectively for our communities. Charlie consults on gender equity for government and private institutions, and winds down at home to Ezra Furman and cuddles with their many children and pets.



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