

# THE STAR



Developmental  
Disabilities Association

100%  
NONPROFIT  
OWNED & OPERATED

SPRING  
2019

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BY ALANNA  
HENDREN

## OP-ED: THE HOT TOPIC OF DONATION BINS, TEXTILE RECYCLING, AND DOING GOOD IN OUR COMMUNITY

DUE TO THE RECENT TRAGIC DEATHS OF A MAN IN A CLOTHING DONATION BIN IN WEST VANCOUVER AND A WOMAN IN TORONTO, MUNICIPALITIES ARE JUSTIFIABLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE THREAT OF SUCH BINS TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

The Developmental Disabilities Association has successfully operated a bin program in the Lower Mainland since 2002. We are grateful for our partnerships and would like to assure the public that we have removed all bins with “rolling” chutes and replaced them with “open chute” bins. There has never been a fatality in an open chute bin, since people can climb out of them. In the cities where we have had the opportunity to present this chute design, we have received approval for use. DDA has no unlicensed bins on city property – they are all hosted on private property through agreements with property owners.

Since community safety is a top priority for our association, we have been working with Dr. Ray Taheri, Professor of Engineering at UBC Okanagan regarding bin design. We intend to continue working with him to further improve bin safety. Our collaboration has so far resulted in a competition where engineering students presented prototypes for potentially safer designs. We are encouraged by the innovation and ideas that have resulted so far.

A major benefit of clothing collection is the diversion of re-usable items from public land-fills. Millions of tonnes of waste are diverted from land-fills by charities – at rates of \$90 to \$142 per tonne in disposal costs in Metro Vancouver, clothing collection bins reduce municipal garbage costs and save taxpayers money. DDA alone diverts over 6 million pounds (2,722 tonnes) of clothing and housewares from the waste stream annually. This type of re-use and recycling is needed now more than ever due to the advent of “fast” or “throwaway” fashion. Consumers are buying more clothes, wearing them less and disposing of them at an unprecedented rate. Clothing is the fastest-growing category of waste today because the apparel industry stimulates demand through massive marketing campaigns, shortens the time it takes for an item to get from the runway to retail and uses cheaper materials and production methods to allow people to purchase clothing at costs low enough to throw away quickly-dated trendy items. Another challenge to the environment is that natural fibers

# DDA DIVERTS MORE THAN 2,722 TONNES [ THAT IS 6 MILLION POUNDS ] OF TEXTILES & HOUSEWARES FROM LANDFILLS EVERY YEAR



are rarely used anymore – most are mixed with synthetic materials that do not decompose.

The proceeds of our clothing collections are entirely used for the benefit of people with developmental disabilities, augmenting areas where governments have decreased their commitments to funding. Other charitable textile collectors like Diabetes Canada, Big Brothers, and the Salvation Army use their profits to fund summer camps, diabetes awareness programs, medical research, mentors for children, and support people living in poverty. Together, our efforts positively impact millions of Canadians every year.

It is up to the public, through its elected representatives, to decide whether the benefits of clothing bins outweigh identified risks, but we must also understand that the problems driving people into clothing bins and dumpsters – poverty, addictions, mental illness and especially homelessness – need urgent attention and public support if we are to reduce the needless suffering and deaths of our fellow citizens everywhere in our communities. Charities like the Developmental Disabilities Association are here to be part of the solution.

Yours truly,

ALANNA HENDREN

Executive Director

Developmental Disabilities Association



We have removed bins with “rolling” chutes and replaced them with “open chute” bins.



# CHRISTMAS AT DDA

BY COLLEEN THOMAS

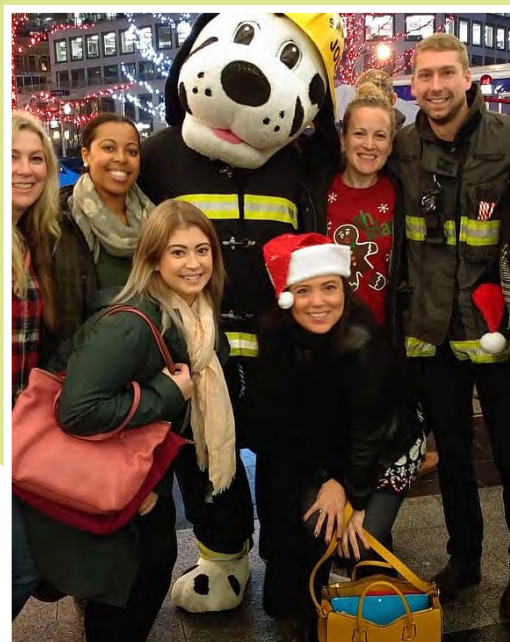
## CHRISTMAS WISH BREAKFAST

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES HAS INVITED STAFF AND FAMILIES TO CONTRIBUTE TOYS TO THE LOWER MAINLAND'S CHRISTMAS BUREAU.

All Child & Youth development centres and the Shell Road/Kaslo offices collected new, unwrapped toys for this annual community building event. The dedicated centre managers, in a van bursting with donations and holiday spirit, made a 6:00 a.m. delivery to the Christmas Wish Breakfast at the Pan

Pacific Vancouver hotel on December 13, 2018.

We wish to extend our thanks to all staff, families and friends who made contributions to this heartwarming cause. It truly is a team effort and we are grateful to take part in this welcomed tradition.



BY DONNA CAIN

## ARLINGTON CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS



THIS PAST DECEMBER, THE SIX RESIDENCES AT ARLINGTON CAME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT TROUT LAKE COMMUNITY CENTRE WITH FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

There were close to 100 guests gathered to enjoy the festivities; with 24 residents between the homes it does not take long to fill a hall. This has become a holiday tradition at Arlington that we all enjoy. It is a great opportunity for our Arlington community to collectively celebrate the holidays and for our families to visit. We celebrated alongside many parents, siblings and friends. Many of their friends live in other DDA residences or vocational programs. In all, nine other DDA programs were represented!

This year's celebration included a delicious Italian-themed lunch with many holiday treats. We were entertained by a professional

classical trumpet player and enjoyed a sing-a-long of all the holiday favorites. Another popular activity is our homemade holiday photo booth. Individuals with their friends and family had the opportunity to don their favourite seasonal prop and have a fun picture to take home to remember the occasion.

We heard many comments by families like: "I love this party", "this is such a good way to see everyone", and "we look forward to this all year."

A wonderful time was had by all and we thank everyone who helped to make this happen. We are already looking forward to planning next year's event!



BY RATNAM  
MATHUR

## DDA PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE'S CHRISTMAS PLAY: "COMING TOGETHER"

THIS PAST CHRISTMAS, WE CONTINUED TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY INCLUSION AND SPREAD OUR MESSAGE THROUGH THE PERFORMING ARTS.

The performance proved to be a simple, yet powerful story of how a community can embrace a lonely person living alone. They welcomed her into their community, making her the guest of honour at their Christmas celebration. Community members then shared their gifts and talents for all to enjoy together.

The play concluded with a community song speaking to the meaning of the Christmas spirit:

*My hands...My hands  
Your hands...Your hands  
I give to you...I give to you  
You give to me...You give to me*

*We...give...together...together!*

It was a truly beautiful, heartwarming and celebratory holiday message!

The theatre play was collaboratively created by Susanna Uchatius, the artistic director of Theatre Terrific. Music was composed by Angelo Moroni and our own clients!

Our talented artist Carol Lavorato was the lead actor. Doug Harrison and Tracy Mohns as community leaders. Guitarist Charles Waterman with dancers, Allan Chow, Jassaaren Jhahj, John Dietrich, Paya Hossainnia, David Purkis, Merrilee Morgan, Fred

Alcock, Michael Annala, Dolores Allison, Pamela Deo, Philip Chong, Trevor Minster and our very talented singers Bernadette Seipp, Sherri Sano, Laurie Freeman, Anne Radoslovich, Linda Short, Stephen Haynes, Frieda Wiens and Simon Gardiner. Many others who joined us, watched the show and cheered on!

Many thanks to all of our supporting staff and artists, performers, dancers, musicians and singers. We are extremely proud of your creativity, enthusiasm and participation!

Looking forward to the next performing arts play – stay tuned!



# HOW TO DONATE

## CONTACT

www.develop.bc.ca  
604-273-4332

WEBSITE

## REQUEST A PICK UP



PHONE

EMAIL

## CASH4 CLOTHES



A great way to raise money for your organization or team!

DDA IS  
**100%**  
NONPROFIT

## WHAT YOU CAN DONATE

Clothes  
Table Liners  
Towels  
Accessories (ties, hats, belts)  
Bathing Suits  
Books  
CDs, DVDs & Records

Glassware  
Pots & Pans  
Sleeping Bags  
Small Appliances  
Sporting Gear  
Stationary Supplies  
Toys & Games

## DONATION STATION

2643 No. 5 Rd  
Richmond, V6X 2S8  
Weekdays  
7:00 – 3:30



## DDA HEAD OFFICE

100-3851 Shell Rd  
Richmond, V6X 2W2  
Weekdays  
8:30 – 4:30

## DONATION STATIONS



BY ALANNA  
HENDREN

## A VISIT TO ZAMBIA & SOUTH AFRICA

IN THE FALL OF 2018, DDA PRESIDENT RONDA KARLINER AND I WERE INVITED ON A TRIP TO ZAMBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, TO LEARN HOW THESE COUNTRIES HAVE CREATED AND MANAGED PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

Over the course of two weeks, we were introduced to the facilities, the innovations and most importantly the people who are tirelessly working towards creating inclusive and educational spaces for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The trip started in Zambia, where they have been developing programs and education around disabilities since they signed the UN Charter on the Rights of People with Disabilities in 2008. Over the past 10 years, advocates have been working to shift cultural norms around people with disabilities and to help them gain acceptance in Zambian society, which is rooted in traditional beliefs. The Norwegian Disability Consortium have partnered with Zambia and have been providing training in inclusive education, sustainable economic empowerment and disability since 2009. Through this partnership, the Zambian government agreed to a “Twin Track” approach to inclusion, focusing on strengthening existing structures and approaching disability from a multi-sectoral perspective.

While in Zambia, we visited the Shungu Primary and Secondary School, which is a pilot school for inclusive education in Zambia. Children with disabilities typically attend different schools than their peers or no school at all, however more inclusive programs are growing. Some pilot schools have volunteered to welcome

children with special needs into their school, with one special needs teacher assigned to act as a liaison, expert and cheerleader for inclusion. At the Shungu School there are 1,200 students with 240 labelled as having special needs, which includes physical, sensory, intellectual and learning disabilities. The teachers are some of the most enthusiastic I have ever met. Solomon, a student with an intellectual disability, has been kicked out of several schools but now attends the Shungu School where he is performing well among his peers. Although they still face significant barriers in community acceptance and financial accessibility for students, the Shungu School shows the promise of inclusive learning in Zambia.

Working beyond the classroom are Community Development Assistants, who reach out to families within the community to assist with maximizing the developmental potential of children with disabilities. This program provides health and educational outreach to children in traditional villages, encouraging families to use adaptive devices made out of common materials and create environmental adaptations for their children. In the Mukuni Village, we were able to meet with Joseph, who was receiving a visit and review from a Community Development Assistant. He had made great progress since his last visit and was eager to demonstrate his language

“ THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANTS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION ARE ALREADY LEADING TO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS FOR ZAMBIA’S SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN. THE STRENGTH OF THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES WILL SERVE THEM WELL INTO THE FUTURE. ”



comprehension skills by retrieving items from his natural environment.

Many gaps still remain in Zambia’s disability system and they have significant challenges to overcome. Along with a general need to alleviate struggles exacerbated by poverty, Zambia stills needs early identification services, better family supports, community sensitization, school materials and for parents to become key teachers, however, the work of the Community Development Assistants and the development of inclusive education are already leading to significant developments for Zambia’s special needs children. The strength of their families and communities will serve them well into the future.

From Zambia, our group travelled to South Africa where support and programming for people with disabilities has been growing since the end of apartheid in in the early 1990’s. All sorts of legislation has been passed, including the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. There are many issues that South Africans face because of their troubled history and within this broader context people with disabilities face even more issues, with personal safety, community acceptance and educational opportunities. It was only in 2010 that the South African court ruled that children with disabilities were entitled to affordable and accessible education. However, as Professor Sharon Kleintjes explained, South Africa is attempting a “conceptual framework for

empowering people with disabilities” that involves social transformation, self-directed agency and opportunities. They are trying to create environmental inclusion that respects the unique needs of each individual.

There are a number of initiatives that are providing accepting and encouraging work environments for people with disabilities, Cape Town, where we visited two such places - Brownies & Downies and Work4You. Work4You reminded me of our own Starworks Packaging and Assembly in Vancouver. At Work4You, workers are taught how to make the dog and cat treats that they produce, and gain independence. The leaders of community employment in South Africa are occupational therapists as opposed to the social work or social care community that provides such leadership in Canada. Work4You is one of the programs that was started by occupational therapists who help and train the workers. Another business we visited was Brownies & Downies, a restaurant staffed exclusively by adults with developmental disabilities that is an extension of a successful Dutch franchise. Their mandate is to improve the quality of life for people with intellectual challenges, encourage employment and create a welcoming atmosphere while they serve customers excellent sandwiches and pastries including world-famous brownies.

While in South Africa, we spent quite a bit of time at the Alexandra Hospital, the only Public Psychiatric Hospital



designated for the provision of specialized mental health services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The government is currently advocating for deinstitutionalization, so patients have begun moving into group homes or back with their families. The hospital is constantly training caregivers, physicians, occupational therapists and physiotherapists in the needs of people with developmental disabilities.

Similar to the program in Zambia, Cape Mental Health operates many community based programs in South Africa's Cape. They provide assessment, counselling and support for people with developmental disabilities while their employment services focus on finding them jobs. They also provide life-skills training programs, contract work, work experience, work crews and supported employment services. When we visited the staff, they were cheerful, proud of their work, professional and cared very much about their charges although they were operating a sheltered workshop that would be considered an ancient model in Canada. One of the biggest challenges is community safety since most of the centre's attendees

come from shantytowns where poverty and violence are constant threats to their well-being.

Throughout our trip we explored the services and supports that are available for disabled people in Zambia and South Africa. We were extremely grateful to all of the people who gave us tours, explained their work and inspired us with their ability to provide such individualized education and social support despite all the factors that worked against them. Their ability to not only overcome systemic problems but to create innovative solutions within their environments was remarkable and reminded the rest of us that simple strategies often produce the best results, particularly in areas where resources are scarce.

# PINK SHIRT DAY



**Wednesday, February 27, 2019**

**#PINKITFORWARD**

**#PINKSHIRTDAY**





## MEGAN'S STORY: MENTORSHIP MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

*This story was condensed from a previous article written by Presidents Group. For the full article, visit: [www.accessibleemployers.ca](http://www.accessibleemployers.ca).*

MEGAN STARTED AT LONDON DRUGS IN 2017 AS A CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE.

Through the support of a colleague who mentored her, she not only feels accomplished in her role, but a part of the London Drugs family. As a sign of this inclusive culture, Megan's nametag reads: "Family Member since 2017."

Megan was working at a grocery store but was looking for more hours – so she approached Jobs West, DDA's employment program that enables people with developmental disabilities to find and maintain employment. She interviewed with the Assistant Manager and Human Resources Manager at London Drugs and got the job. This seemed to be a great fit as there's always something to do and Megan likes a job where she can stay active.

When she started, she was reserved and sometimes too shy to ask questions. London Drugs assigned Megan to a mentor – Erma – who coached her in the role. "Erma helped me step out of my comfort zone and now I interact more with customers and I'm more comfortable asking questions when I need clarification," says Megan.

Having worked at London Drugs for 41 years as a Shipper/Receiver, Erma handles all the inventory - from when it arrives to when it is shelved. She is responsible for merchandising, training, managing team members, and operational planning. "I love working with new employees. I put my 100% in every day, and this reflects in the people I work with," she added.

When asked why Megan enjoys her work at London Drugs, Megan answered that there was a sense of belonging within the organization

Megan said, "I like knowing I am responsible for things and that people are relying on me to get the job done." Erma added, "I get to be part of this amazing team of people and see people learn and grow."

WHEN ASKED FOR SOME TIPS ON HOW SHE MANAGES NEW STAFF MEMBERS WITH VARIOUS DISABILITIES ERMA OFFERS:

**1 GIVE YOUR TEAM A SENSE OF WHAT THE DAY LOOKS LIKE.**

Laying out the day ahead helps reduce anxiety and creates clarity so everyone is on the same page.

**2 APPRECIATE YOUR TEAM.**

People want to know they are a part of something successful – and want to feel that their contribution is making a difference. Show them how their accomplishments are adding to the bigger picture.

**3 BE FLEXIBLE.**

If you notice one of your team members is tired, or needs a quick mental break – don't wait until their scheduled half an hour lunch. Offer them five minutes to recoup and they will be better positioned for the rest of the day.

**4 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS.**

It can be intimidating to ask questions when you're new, and in some cases, when your previous experience asking questions hasn't been positive.

**5 BUILD THEIR AREA OF EXPERTISE.**

Allow them to master a task, and then add one more thing onto their plate. Everyone wants to develop their skills – but let people do it at their own pace.

**6 TEAM PEOPLE UP.**

For some people, having a disability can be isolating as it can limit the availability of social interactions. Help people create a team at work where they get to know each other, rely on one another and support their peers.



# JOBS WEST SPOTLIGHT



JOBS WEST IS CELEBRATING THREE EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE REACHED SPECIAL MILESTONES

## DALE TOMAHAWK RESTAURANT

Dale is celebrating 20 years with Tomahawk Restaurant in North Vancouver! Dale always shows up ready to give his best and his manager, Chuck, had these kind words to say: "It has been a pleasure working with Dale. I can't believe it's been 20 years. He has contributed so much to our staff environment."

## PATRICK STARBUCKS

Patrick celebrated his 10 year anniversary at Starbucks. Since he started at Starbucks, Patrick has become a senior partner at his location and has received feedback that he is great to work with and a valuable member of the team.

## SHANE STARBUCKS

Shane is celebrating his 10 year anniversary at Starbucks! Over the ten years, Starbucks managerial staff have commented how Shane has a great attitude and is always making everyone (staff and customers alike) smile.



SAVE THE DATE



DDA NIGHT AT THE NAT BAILEY STADIUM

TUES. JULY 9TH 2019

# WHAT'S NEW AT DDA



BY WENDY  
MACLEAN

## INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CELEBRATES 45 YEAR MILESTONE

OUR INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (IDP) CELEBRATED 45 YEARS OF SUPPORT AND SERVICE THIS PAST YEAR!

IDP has been a program offered by DDA since 1972, providing early intervention and support to families of children from birth to age three. Each month, IDP Consultants provide home visits supplemented by group programs to over 400 infants and families.

To celebrate this important milestone, an open house was held on November 14, 2018 at our Kaslo office. Attendees included members of the Board of Directors, senior management, current and past staff from a number of the Lower Mainland IDP programs, community service partners such as Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Centre for Ability, UBC, as well as former Provincial Advisor, Dana Brynelsen, who

shared reflections on the beginnings of the Infant Development Program.

It was a great time of memory sharing, reconnecting and celebrating. It was also an opportunity for new members of the team to get a sense of IDP's history in the field of early intervention.

Staff were proud to showcase the updates and rejuvenation that has taken place this past year at the Kaslo office which also houses Leisure Services, Respite Services and Family Support.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the Infant Development Program.







## SAM'S BIRTHDAY DONATION TO CHILD & YOUTH DEPARTMENT

THIS PAST WINTER, A YOUNG BOY NAMED SAM WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THE INCLUSIVE CARE THAT DDA OFFERS FOR CHILDREN REQUIRING SUPPORT.

In particular, he was wondering how teachers adapt rooms and learning for children overcoming disabilities. At his last birthday, he collected donations rather than gifts, and he then forwarded those donations to our Child & Youth Department.

When his mom offered the donation, she reached out to one of our assistant directors

and inquired about a possible tour of one of our child development centres. That was when I was introduced to Sam and his mother, Colette. We were able to meet for a tour and engaged in very thoughtful dialogue addressing his curiosity.

It was truly a pleasure to meet them both and we appreciate the kind donation.

BY COLLEEN THOMAS

## BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY AT CHAMPLAIN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

ON NOVEMBER 13, THE VANCOUVER SCHOOL BOARD HELD THEIR ANNUAL 'BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY' FOR GRADE 9 STUDENTS.

My son, Riley, chose to participate in my work day and learn about the child care system at the Developmental Disabilities Association. I appreciate that this was a welcomed opportunity by Andrew, Kathy and the department's management team.

Our day together started with the monthly managers meeting. We then needed to perform some specific duties to my management role which included shopping for supplies to bring back to Champlain. It was nice to have helping hands because feeding 40 children regularly means several



trips to empty my trunk. There were then some office duties I needed to complete, and he also engaged with the children and staff once we were back on site.

Having been a part of DDA since before Riley was born, it was a pleasure to have him share in my day, observe what I do and what we all do regularly to service the

community. I was reminded by his curiosity and observations about the impact we have on serving our clients and working as a team.

Thank you to everyone who introduced themselves and took time to inquire about who he was and what he was doing. It made an impact and I am again grateful I could share this experience with him.

# TECH REVIEWS

BY KEEGAN  
O'TOOLE

## USE GUIDED ACCESS ON APPLE IPAD

GUIDED ACCESS IS A BUILT-IN FEATURE AVAILABLE ON IPAD THAT IS DESIGNED TO LIMIT THE AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN FEATURES (AS SELECTED BY USER) WHILE ACCESSING AN APP.

Originally this was intended as parental controls for use when a child was accessing the device; to both prevent access to non-age appropriate content and avoid unintended purchases. This feature has since become popular for use with individuals with disabilities as support staff are able to limit the impact of accidental gestures which can quickly change settings or switch/close apps which can be disruptive and distracting to the user. This feature is also available on iPhone.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Once set-up, easy to initiate and end with a wide variety of settings that can be manipulated to suit each unique user's needs;
- Built-in feature (no need to download external apps) and is compatible with almost all apps available on the App Store;
- Support strategy that can be used with minimal supervision and intervention (reduces verbal prompts required from support staff);
- Ideal for users with fine motor impairments, stimming behaviours, attention deficits, and for those who may be using an iPad strictly as a communication device or independent learning tool.

### LOWLIGHTS

- Initial set-up takes time and requires support staff to navigate a series of menus which can be confusing;
- Must be password protected using Apple's escalating lock-out system for each incorrect password entry (this can potentially disable a device for several hours if repeated attempts are made);
- Certain features, such as screenshot, are automatically locked out which may decrease functionality in non-preferred ways.

#### PRODUCT

iPad/iPhone

#### PRODUCER:

Apple

#### FEATURE

Guided Access

#### COST

Included Feature

#### COMPATABILITY

iOS

#### CATEGORY

Support



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NEWS AND UPDATES DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO YOUR  
INBOX

SUBSCRIBE AT [WWW.DEVELOP.BC.CA/SUBSCRIBE](http://WWW.DEVELOP.BC.CA/SUBSCRIBE)



## HOW TO: STEP-BY-STEP

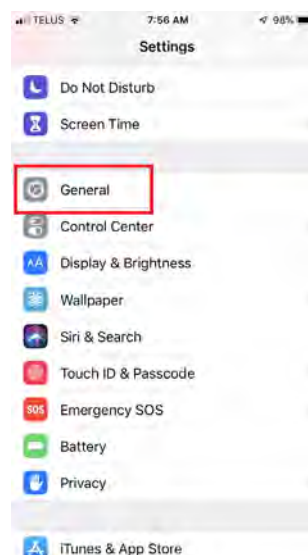
1. Select <settings> icon on iPad's main screen. Note: the settings menu appears as two columns on iPad and a series of single screens on iPhone. The steps for set-up are the same, though the screen views may have some variation between on devices.
2. Select <general> from the left menu column.
3. Select <accessibility> from the right menu column.
4. Scroll to the bottom of the right menu column and select <guided access>.
5. This is the initial settings screen for Guided Access. Swipe right on the switch to turn on Guided Access and view the options. Here you can set your passcode (it will prompt you to do so upon starting the feature if you do not do so in advance) and modify notification settings for using time limits within Guided Access. To disable Guided Access when not in use, swipe left on the switch (though leaving this feature activated in the background will not impact iPad functionality).
6. When ready to use Guided Access within an app, select the app and allow it to load fully. Triple-click the home button (indicated in green) to initiate the Guided Access start-up screen. Here you may select what features you would like available to users and set a time limit for use.
7. Select <start> on the top right corner of the screen to initiate Guided Access. This will close the settings screen and automatically lock the view to the selected app.
8. To end Guided Access or return to the settings screen, triple-click the home button and enter the password you created earlier.
9. If the app is not functioning as expected, select <hardware buttons: options> (indicated in blue) and ensure that the desired features are turn on/off as required for use.
10. To end Guided Access, select <end> on the top left hand corner of the screen. This will close the settings screen and return to the selected app with all normal features enabled.

## VISUAL STEP-BY-STEP

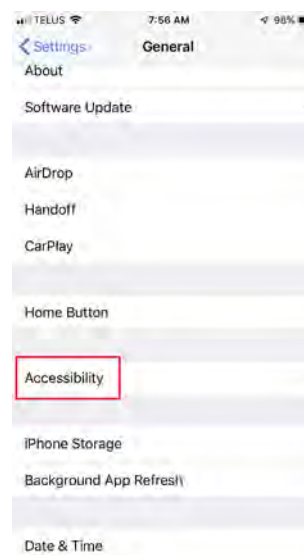
### STEP ONE



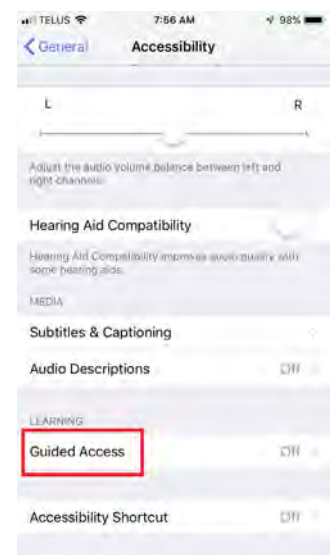
### STEP TWO



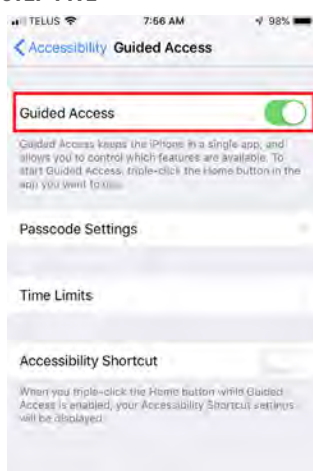
### STEP THREE



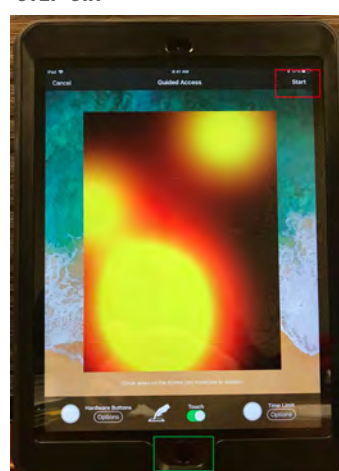
### STEP FOUR



### STEP FIVE



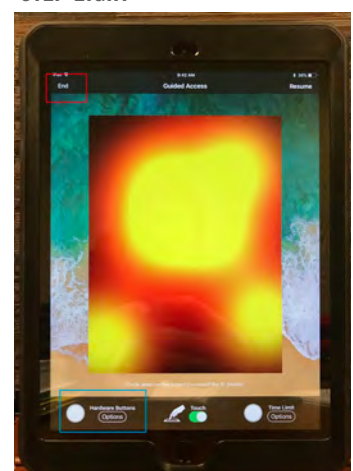
### STEP SIX



### STEP SEVEN



### STEP EIGHT



BY KEEGAN  
O'TOOLE

# SENSORY APP HOUSE

SENSORY APP HOUSE LTD. HAS RELEASED A SERIES OF SENSORY APPS DESIGNED FOR, "SIMULATION, RELAXATION, [AND] FUN".

Electra, Magma, iMeba, and Plazma are four apps from this series that specifically focus on cause & effect interactions. Electra and iMeba are advertised as sensory stimulation apps and targeted towards individuals with special or complex needs. In contrast, Magma and Plazma have been designed as calming, relaxation apps and advertised to a wider demographic as appropriate for all ages. All four apps are switch compatible and advertisement/in-app purchase free. At this time only Electra and iMeba are available for Android (under the names Sensory Electra and Sensory Ameba), though all four apps are available for iOS.

## PRODUCT

Electra/Magma/iMeba/Plazma

## PRODUCER:

Sensory App House Ltd.

## COST

Free

## COMPATABILITY

iOS/Android

## CATEGORY

App

## SUB CATEGORY

Sensory

## STAR RATINGS

Ease of Use:

Grab & Go



Adaptability:

No Modifications

Options



Accessibility:

Broad Range of Users Served



Cost vs. Value:

Free



Overall Rating:



## HIGHLIGHTS

- No settings screen which allows for quick access for use and prevents unintentional changes by users;
- High contrast images ideal for users with visual impairments;
- Low-stimulation graphics when idle to maintain user interest without inadvertent reward;
- Sound and high-stimulation graphics upon user input for immediate reinforcement;
- Simple design makes apps extremely user friendly;
- Compatible for use with AppleTV and could potentially be used in a designated sensory space, or with a small group for peer-to-peer interactions.

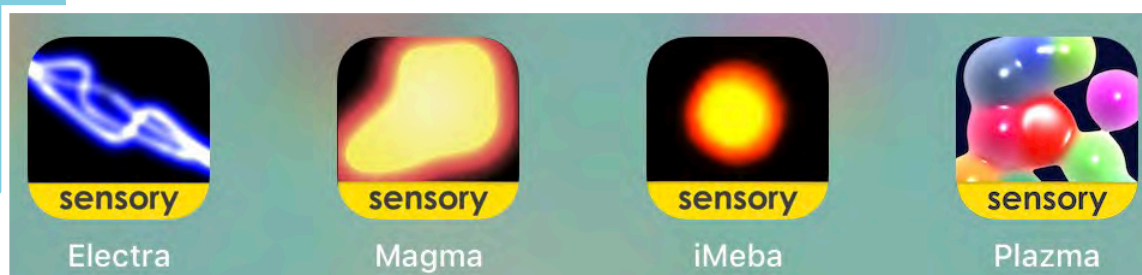
## FINAL WORD

Sensory App House Ltd. has put obvious thought into the needs of the frontline caregiver when creating these apps. The choice to not include a settings screen, allow advertisements, or in-app purchases, makes all four of these apps truly 'grab and go'. Enabling Apple's Guided Access feature prior to use will ensure that the screen remains on during each session and that the user is able to use the app without risk of accidentally closing the program or inadvertently swiping over to another unintended app.

## LOWLIGHTS

- Sound effects are short and slightly jarring which may encourage repetitive stimming behaviour;
- iMeba is significantly less reactive than its sister apps and requires user accuracy to initiate a response, making it less suitable for individuals with motor or coordination impairments;
- When tested with various switches on iPad, Apple's accessibility switch default settings override app programming allowing only one response verses the four different responses as advertised (though this may not apply to all switches).

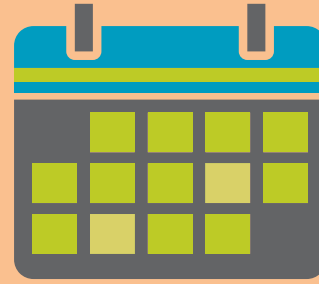
All four of these apps are ideal for sensory integration activities, teaching cause & effect, introducing single step switch operation, and are appropriate for a broad range of users. The ability to modify some settings, such as reaction speed, sounds, colours, etc., would be a valuable feature that hopefully will be available in future updates, though at this time it is not. Regardless, Electra, Magma, iMeba, and Plazma are four apps that would be useful additions to any frontline caregiver's toolkit, and well worth the download.





# WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

## WORKSHOPS



FREE EVENTS DDA IS HOSTING IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS

### SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

With Margot Merinsky, MSW, RSW, Social Worker, Stepping Stones Program, BC Centre for Ability.

Date: Saturday March 16th, 2019

Time: 10:30AM – 12:00PM

Location: 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver, BC

Registration: Please contact Shixin Gao at sgao@develop.bc.ca or (604) 301-2831 to register

### PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FINANCIAL PLANNING BASICS

With David Chen, DC Complete Financial Solutions.

Date: Saturday April 6th, 2019

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver, BC

Registration: Please contact Terry Schenkel at tschenkel@develop.bc.ca or (604) 233-5433 to register

### VARIETY – THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY: GRANTING INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

With Evonne Lau. This workshop will provide parents with an overview of Variety's granting process, application procedures and eligible expenses.

Date: Saturday April 13th, 2019

Time: 10:00AM – 11:00AM

Location: 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver, BC

## NEW CLOTHING BINS

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW BIN HOSTS FOR SUPPORTING DDA

**COSTAL BUMPER AND BODY LTD**

32812 Huntingdon Road, Abbotsford, BC V2S 7Z3

**CHEVRON**

18438 16th Ave, Surrey, V3S 9W7

**FRASER VALLEY ADVENTIST ACADEMY**

26026 48th Ave, Aldergrove, BC, V4W 1J2



Registration: Please contact Shixin Gao at sgao@develop.bc.ca or (604) 301-2831 to register.

### ESTATE PLANNING: WILL REPRESENTATION AGREEMENT AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Learn the importance of these legal documents. This no cost workshop will be in English and translated into Japanese.

Date: Saturday April 27th, 2019

Time: 11:00AM – 2:00PM

Location: 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver, BC

### TRANSITION PLANNING FOR YOUTH 16 – 24 YEARS: PARENT PANEL

This no cost workshop will be in English and translated into Japanese.

Date: Saturday May 25th, 2019

Time: 10:00AM – 2:00PM

Location: 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver, BC

Registration: Please contact Terry Schenkel at tschenkel@develop.bc.ca or (604) 233-5433 to register

### INVESTING IN YOUR RDSP

With Denise Levine, Royal Bank of Canada

Date: Saturday June 8th, 2019

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver, BC

Registration: Please contact Terry Schenkel at tschenkel@develop.bc.ca or (604) 233-5433 to register.



**RBC Royal Bank®**

### INVESTING YOUR RDSP

Saturday June 8th, 2019

10:30AM – 12:00PM

3455 Kaslo Street.

Vancouver

Financial planning services and investment advice are provided by Royal Mutual Funds Inc. (RMFI). RMFI, RBC Global Asset Management Inc., Royal Bank of Canada, Royal Trust Corporation of Canada and The Royal Trust Company are separate corporate entities which are affiliated.



# TAX PREPARATION CLINICS

## FIND A CLINIC NEAR YOU

If you qualify for the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program and have a simple tax situation, a trained volunteer will help you complete your 2018 income tax and benefit return. To find a Community Volunteer Income Tax Program clinic near you, go to [www.cra.gc.ca/volunteer](http://www.cra.gc.ca/volunteer) or call the CRA Individuals Income Tax Enquiries line at **1 800 959 8281**.

### SIKH COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

TIME: 10:00AM – 12:00PM Monday to Friday  
(Year-round)

LOCATION: 8000 Ross Street, Vancouver, BC

CONTACT: (604) 322-5613

TYPE: Without appointment, walk-ins are welcome.

LANGUAGES: English, French, Hindi, Persian, Punjabi, Urdu

NOTES: Clinic location is wheelchair accessible.  
Prior and current year returns

### VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE SERVICES SOCIETY

TIME: Every Wednesday & Saturday (Year-round)

LOCATION: 2982 Nanaimo Street, Vancouver, BC

CONTACT: [administration@vatjss.com](mailto:administration@vatjss.com)

TYPE: With appointment

LANGUAGES: English

NOTES: Clinic location is wheelchair accessible.  
Current year returns only.

## LEISURE FAIR 2019

## JOIN US AT OUR UPCOMING LEISURE FAIR 2019!

**WHERE:** SUNSET COMMUNITY CENTRE (GYM)  
6810 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V5X 0A1

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

**FROM:** 6:00PM to 8:00PM

FREE  
EVENT



For more information, contact Shixin Gao at [sgao@develop.bc.ca](mailto:sgao@develop.bc.ca) or (604) 301-2831 or visit us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/leisurefair](https://www.facebook.com/leisurefair)

TABLES ARE LIMITED, PLEASE REGISTER EARLY



# MAXIMIZE YOUR TAX CREDITS

## NOTABLE FEDERAL NON-REFUNDABLE TAX CREDITS

Through the tax system, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) administers a range of benefits and credits for persons with a disability or those who are caring for a dependant with a disability. By filing your income tax and benefit return by April 30, 2019, your return will be processed faster and if you are entitled to a refund, you will receive it earlier.

### LINE 318 – DISABILITY AMOUNT

If a qualified practitioner certifies on Form T2201, Disability Tax Credit Certificate, that you have a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental function, you can claim the disability amount of when filing your return. The disability amount can be transferred in whole or in part if the person with the disability does not need it to reduce his or her taxable income.

### LINE 330 AND 331 – MEDICAL EXPENSES

You may be able to claim the cost of medical expenses for any 12-month period ending in 2018 (provided that they have not been claimed before) for yourself, your spouse or common-law partner, or your dependants.

For more information about medical expenses, including a list of common eligible expenses, go to [www.cra.gc.ca/medical](http://www.cra.gc.ca/medical).

### LINE 453 – WORKING INCOME TAX BENEFIT

The working income tax benefit (WITB) is a refundable tax credit intended to provide tax relief for eligible working low-income individuals and families who are already in the workforce and to encourage other Canadians to enter the workforce.

### LINE 215 – DISABILITY SUPPORTS DEDUCTION

Only the person with the disability can claim expenses for this deduction. If you have an impairment in physical or mental functions, you may be able to deduct the expenses that you paid in the year so that you could go to school or work.

### LINE 304 AND 305 – CANADA CAREGIVER CREDIT

You may be able to claim the CCC for one or more of the following individuals if they depend on you for support because of a physical or mental impairment:

1. your or your spouse's or common-law partner's child or grandchild
2. your spouse's or common-law partner's parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, niece, or nephew (if resident in Canada at any time in the year)

An individual is considered to depend on you for support if they rely on you to regularly and consistently provide them

with some or all of the basic necessities of life, such as food, shelter and clothing.

### REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS PLAN

A registered disability savings plan (RDSP) is a plan that provides long-term financial security for a beneficiary who has a severe impairment in physical or mental function. The beneficiary named under an RDSP must be eligible for the disability tax credit. Contributions are not tax deductible, but the earnings generated on contributions are tax-exempt while they stay in the plan. When earnings are withdrawn from the savings plan, they are taxable in the hands of the beneficiary. For more information, go to [www.cra.gc.ca/disability](http://www.cra.gc.ca/disability) or [www.rdsp.ca](http://www.rdsp.ca)

### MULTIPLE FORMATS

If you have a visual impairment, you can get our publications in braille, large print, etext (CD or diskette), or MP3, by visiting the CRA site at [www.cra.gc.ca/alternate](http://www.cra.gc.ca/alternate), or by calling 1 800 959 2221. You can also get your personalized correspondence in one of these formats by calling 1 800 959 8281.

In our self-assessing tax system, it's up to Canadians to educate themselves about tax compliance and about tax credits that reduce the tax you pay.

The CRA has information on tax credits with explanations of how to make a successful claim by documenting the claim appropriately for:

- What you can claim for yourself
- What you can claim for others who live with you or whom you support with a mental or physical infirmity
- Attendant care or care in an establishment
- Medical expenses for all Canadians
- Disability supports for those who work or attend school
- GST/HST, Excise, Customs

**WANT TO KNOW MORE  
ABOUT FINANCIAL  
PLANNING, TAX CREDITS  
AND MORE?**

CONTACT THE FAMILY SUPPORT  
AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM AT  
**(604) 233-5433**

# FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS

## VANCOUVER CHINESE SUPPORT GROUP

General support for children's and adult's issues in Cantonese and Mandarin.

Date: 3rd Saturday of the month

Time: 6:30PM – 8:30PM

Location: 4948 Fraser Street, Vancouver, BC

Childcare: Available on site when requested at least 1 week in advance of meeting.

Contact: Shixin Gao (604) 301-2831 or  
sgao@develop.bc.ca

## YOUTH IN TRANSITION

Support information for transition to adulthood

Session 1: Wednesday March 6th 2019

Topic: Money Matters

Time: 6:30PM – 8:00PM

Location: 3455 Kaslo St, Vancouver

Session 2: Saturday January 26th, 2019

Topic: Housing Options

Time: 6:30PM – 8:00PM

Location: 2006 West 10th Ave, Vancouver

Contact: Liz Cochrane (604) 733-6252 or  
transitionparents@gmail.com

## VIETNAMESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support to families in Vietnamese.

Date: Second Thursday of the Month

Time: 6:30PM – 8:30PM

Location: 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver, BC

Childcare: Available on site when requested at least 1 week in advance of meeting.

Contact: Nikki Tran (778) 895-2535 from 6:00PM  
– 9:00PM

## LOWER MAINLAND JAPANESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support to families in Japanese.

Session 1: January 26th, 2019

Topic: Socialization and Sexuality

Time: 10:30AM – 1:00PM

Session 2: April 28th, 2019

Topic: Estate Planning

Time: 11:00AM – 2:00PM

Session 3: May 25th 2019

Topic: Youth in Transition Planning with Panel

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver, BC

Contact: firststepcanada@outlook.com

## FIRST STEP JAPANESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

General support to families in Japanese

Date TBD

Location: 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver, BC

Contact: firststepcanada@outlook.com

## UPSIDE DOWN FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support to families with children with Down Syndrome.

### Vancouver Location

Dates: March 23rd, May 25th

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: 3455 Kaslo Street

Contact: Aileen Mellors  
amluyt@gmail.com

### North Vancouver Location

Dates: Feb. 23, April 27, June 22

Time: 1:15PM – 3:15PM

Location: Maplewood House, 388 Seymour River, Place

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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 @DDA604

 DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIESASSOCIATION

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review if DDA has helped you  
or your family.

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We welcome your comments and feedback. Kindly direct all comments and submissions to communications@develop.bc.ca.