



Ontario
Rett Syndrome
Association
Building Healthy Tomorrows

2014 Communication Workshops

Mississauga: November 6 & 7, 2014

Ottawa: November 8 & 9, 2014

The Ontario Rett Syndrome Association (O.R.S.A.) is proud to offer this educational opportunity, focused on communication strategies for individuals with Rett syndrome. Having an effective communication system for a child or adult with Rett syndrome can be challenging. In recent years, there have been exciting advancements in communication technology. We will provide exceptional speakers to inspire family members, caregivers, support staff, educators, speech and occupational therapists and medical professionals. You'll meet two of the leading experts in literacy and communication strategies for people with complex communication needs. Let's work together to continue to unlock the communication and learning potential of each person with Rett syndrome!

Karen Congram & Terry Boyd
Co-Chairs



PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS ONLY PLEASE

Due to the nature of these workshops, we ask that individuals with Rett syndrome not be present. We cannot accommodate their needs and each attendee will need to have the ability to concentrate fully on the information being provided by the presenters.

SPEAKERS

Erin Sheldon earned her Master's of Education at Queen's University studying assistive technology and literacy instruction for students with significant disabilities. Erin is the mother of a grade 6 student diagnosed with Angelman syndrome, including co-morbid autism, low-vision and intractable epilepsy. Erin works with families and school teams to create literacy programs that all students can access.

Judy Lariviere is an Assistive Technology Specialist and Occupational Therapist with a Master's in Special Education who has worked in the field of AAC for the past 26 years. She received her Master's of Educational Psychology with the area of concentration in Special Education and her Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Western Ontario. Judy began her career as an Occupational Therapist working at Thames Valley Children's Centre where she worked in the Augmentative Communication Service. Through her private practice in California, Judy has over 16 years of experience working with girls and young women with Rett syndrome (RTT) throughout United States; identifying their best means of access to technology for communication and learning, while also implementing tools and strategies to support their educational progress, particularly in the area of literacy. She has designed various eye gaze page layouts specifically for individuals with RTT and has used these successfully in more than 250 eye gaze trials with children and adults. Judy is the Communication Specialist at Katie's Clinic for Rett Syndrome at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. She presents at conferences nationally and internationally about her work with children and adults with RTT. Judy is also a full-time Professor as an Assistive Technology Specialist in the Disability Resource Center at Skyline College in San Bruno, CA.

Here's what people are saying about this exciting learning opportunity!

"Recent advancements in eye gaze technology are making communication more accessible for individuals with Rett syndrome and opening doors to exciting possibilities. This conference offers a forum for families and professionals to gain hands-on experience integrating elements of literacy development with communication options."

Gill Steckle, Speech Language Pathologist
Kelli Vessoyan, Occupational Therapist
Augmentative Communication Service
Thames Valley Children's Centre

"Erin Sheldon tackles current philosophies and pedagogy through the lens of an educator's brain with a parent's heart. She advocates and educates us on the importance of literacy for all learners but particularly for students with complex communication needs. You will leave this workshop inspired and with a new focus on what literacy can and should look like in our classrooms."

Celeste Mitchell, Classroom Teacher
Learning for All Coach, Learning Services
Avon Maitland District School Board

"We met Judy Lariviere at the Ontario Rett Syndrome Association family conference in 2012. I was amazed by her theory and approach. Judy has worked with countless people with Rett syndrome. During her presentation, you'll get to see video examples of communication strategies to try. We've been using the Tobii for two years and we're still using Judy's approach and ideas."

Jenn Coleman, Parent



AGENDA

Day 1 - 75 spaces available

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Private Consultations with Judy Lariviere

Limited unique private consultation sessions with Judy Lariviere are available for 2014 O.R.S.A. family members. Each session is one half hour. The session will provide a time to discuss current communication challenges and to obtain strategies directly related to your specific child. Your child/adult with Rett syndrome will not attend.

A communication questionnaire will need to be filled in by every family in advance of the consultation appointment. This will allow Judy to provide the most appropriate supports and ideas at the clinic appointment. Those interested in obtaining a private consultation time should check off the consultation request on the online registration form. Each family/caregiver will be contacted by the Consultation Coordinator once the online registration form has been completed. Private consultation spots will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The first 7 requests will be accommodated. All families requesting a private consultation time must be registered for the workshop and be 2014 O.R.S.A. members. Membership renewal can be completed online at www.rett.ca.

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Power of Literacy
Presenter: Erin Sheldon

Literacy is when I share my story with you and you share your story in return. Literacy is finding pleasure and meaning in books. Literacy is when I can use symbols and letters to have power in my world. Literacy is when I share the thoughts you didn't know I was having. Literacy should be fun, social, and powerful. Every person can successfully engage in the literacy experiences that grow her understanding of what it means to be literate.

Individuals with Rett syndrome are excluded from literacy experiences when they cannot access the tools and materials that all students need to become more literate, including the letters of the alphabet for writing for many purposes and a wide selection of books for reading. This workshop will demonstrate strategies to ensure every person can access the literacy experiences that bring joy, enhance friendships and give her power.

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Let's have a Conversation! Using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) to Improve Communication for Individuals with Rett Syndrome
Presenter: Judy Lariviere

The potential of individuals with Rett syndrome (RTT) to communicate and learn is often underestimated. Poor performance on standardized assessments or the inability to demonstrate prerequisite communication skills often "blocks" these people from demonstrating their true abilities. This workshop will show how significant improvements in communication have been observed and documented over a relatively short period of time when apraxia, sensory regulation and ease of access are taken into account. Strategies for building on each individual's unique natural gestures and best "yes" responses will be highlighted, along with applying these strategies to their immediate use of communication-based apps on the iPad through partner-assisted scanning. In addition, specific set-ups, configurations and strategies that have been implemented into trials with eye gaze technology will be shared. Videos of girls and women engaging in conversations and literacy learning experiences using a customized layout of Pati King-DeBaun's Dynamic Communication Book on their eye gaze systems will be shown with reference to strategies for supporting social interaction using all modes of communication. Ways in which eye gaze technology is opening up new worlds for people with RTT through their independent access to cell phones, email, Skype and social media will also be highlighted.

Day 2 – 30 spaces available

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Advanced "Make and Take" Eye-Gaze Technology Workshop Using Tobii Communicator
Presenter: Judy Lariviere

In this advanced hands-on workshop, participants will learn how to create and set up a user in Tobii Communicator, the communication-based software that runs on Tobii C series, I series, and Windows-compatible tablets. Participants will also learn how to customize and add variety to communication-based page sets incorporating an eye gaze layout that has been successfully used by individuals with Rett syndrome. The different ways page sets can be customized to increase ease of access to all buttons on page sets for individuals with Rett syndrome will be demonstrated. Given that communication is being able to talk about and share life experiences, workshop participants will be shown how to create "talking" photos in photo albums or "news" pages using templates that are configured to support ease of access. Participants will learn how to configure user settings in Tobii Communicator to create contact lists and support calling and receiving phone calls, as well as texting, through compatible cell phones. The process involved in setting up Tobii Communicator for a Gmail account will be shared so that an individual with RTT can compose new emails, as well as read and reply to incoming emails using their Tobii eye gaze systems. Participants will also learn how to configure settings for accessing Skype accounts so that individuals will be able to "Skype" with family and friends. Participants will program a customized "Home" page that integrates all of an individual's page sets for his/her independent and easy navigation. The process for adding favourite music and videos to commercially available music and video player page sets will be reviewed. Participants will also learn how to backup a user to retain links between page sets and configured settings for telecommunication so that hours of programming are never lost!

Attendees for Day Two will be emailed with the links and page sets required to participate in the Advanced Tobii Eye Gaze Workshop: Hands-on Make and Take full-day session. A PC laptop or a Tobii communication eye gaze device will be required to participate in the Day Two session.

REGISTRATION

The workshops will be held in two locations, Mississauga and Ottawa. Attendees can attend either one or both days. Space is limited. Please register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Registration for the workshop will only be available online at www.rett.ca. Registration is limited and will be closed once the maximum number of attendees has been reached for each day. The registration fee is \$50.00 per day and includes all required materials, two breaks and lunch. There are 75 spaces available for Day One and 30 spaces for Day Two. In order to provide every attendee with a positive workshop experience, please review and input all the required information on the online registration form.

Workshop registration opens on September 12th, 2014 and is closed on October 24th, 2014 or once all spaces are filled.



SPECIAL MEAL REQUIREMENTS

Please indicate when you register if you have any special meal requirements such as food allergies, vegetarian, etc.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Mississauga Location

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites: Mississauga West-Meadowvale
2565 Argenta Road, Mississauga, Ontario, L5N 5V4 Canada

ROOMS AND RESERVATIONS

The Toronto Communication Workshop room rate is \$119.00, plus tax. Internet and parking are included in price. Those attendees requiring hotel accommodations must book their own room. Hotel costs are not included in the registration fee. The deadline to receive this special rate is October 8th, 2014.

For reservations call: 1-877-660-8550/1-905-542-2121

Remember to state you are booking under the block name: ORS

Ottawa Location

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites: Ottawa Kanata
101 Kanata Ave. Ottawa, Ontario, K2T 1E6 Canada

ROOMS AND RESERVATIONS

The Ottawa Communication Workshop room rate is \$139.00, plus tax. Internet and parking are included in price. Those attendees requiring hotel accommodations must book their own room. Hotel costs are not included in the registration fee. The deadline to receive this special rate is October 8th, 2014.

For reservations go to www.hisottawa.ca or by calling 1-800-HOLIDAY.

Remember to state you are booking under the block name:: ORS

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions please call (519) 474-6877 or email karen@rett.ca or terry@rett.ca

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