

Moving the Dial Together

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Did you know that October is Learning Disabilities awareness month and ADHD awareness month?

Both of these neurodevelopmental disorders are fairly common, and can have a huge impact on individuals and families, as well as society as a whole.

Unfortunately there is a lot of misinformation about both LD and ADHD that exists on the internet, and that is evident in our everyday lives. Well-meaning people may share inaccurate “facts” or advice about these disorders, which makes it difficult for individuals and families to get the information they need. Without good quality information, appropriate support and/or treatment are delayed; associated risks are not addressed; and needless suffering occurs (such as guilt, blame, and hopelessness).

So, how do we ‘move the dial’ on providing individuals and families with reliable information? Collaboration is key.

At Foothills Academy we have a Designated Special Education Private School (DSEPS) for students with diagnosed Learning Disabilities in grades 3-12. And, we also have a wide range of programs and educational opportunities to support those with learning and attention struggles in Calgary, and well beyond, through our Community Services.

However, we are part of a larger community of local, provincial, and national organizations working together to help move the dial! Here are four amazing organizations we work with closely:

1. [Learning Disabilities & ADHD Network](#) Foothills Academy collaborates with a wide-range of local organizations, such as CanLearn Society and the University of Calgary, to provide reliable information and guidance. The Network is hosting an affordable *Find Your Path: Solutions in Action* insights event in Calgary for families and educators on October 25th with knowledgeable speakers and a resource fair.
2. [Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta \(LDAA\)](#) This provincial organization offers families and educators with support and valuable resources.
3. [Learning Disabilities Association of Canada \(LDAC\)](#) This national organization is hosting an upcoming online conference on November 22nd entitled “*The Power of Partnership: Professionals and Families Working Together*”.
4. [Centre for ADHD Awareness, Canada \(CADDAC\)](#) This national organization is hosting a national conference on ADHD in Vancouver on November 1&2.

This October, in honour of both LD and ADHD Awareness, we want to recognize and celebrate these wonderful organizations that help us ‘move the dial’ by offering individuals and families access to accurate information, the ability to access appropriate resources, and opportunities to find a supportive community!