

# 2009 – 2010 Workshop Series

## Workshop #1

November 4, 2009 – Wednesday

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Presented by Miriam School Speech & Language Pathologists

### **Do You Hear What I Hear?**

Did you know that sound, not the alphabet, is the root of all language? Miriam School's Speech & Language Pathologists will speak on this very subject. The ability to hear, isolate sound, rhyme, pull words apart and build words with sounds are critical to reading and writing development. This workshop will focus on one of the five major components of reading instruction – phonemic awareness. While geared toward younger children in the early stages of reading, this program is also appropriate for older students who are struggling with reading and writing skills.

## Workshop #2

November 18, 2009 – Wednesday

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Presented by Alyson Aviv, Ph.D. & Darrin Friesen, M.D.

### **Getting the Facts About Medication and the Learning Disabled Child**

What are the benefits of stimulants, non-stimulants and mood stabilizers for children with attentional and/or learning problems? What are the possible side effects? What does the most recent research show about these medications? How do these medications impact learning? How can testing help you make decisions about medication? These are just a few of the questions that will be highlighted in this informative workshop.

#### **Alyson Aviv, Ph.D.**

Dr. Aviv is a licensed psychologist, with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and a postdoctoral fellowship in child and adolescent neuropsychology. She has a special interest and expertise in AD/HD, learning difficulties, dyslexia, autism spectrum, developmental issues and emotional disorders.

**Darrin Friesen, M.D.** is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist who specializes in serving children with learning and attentional disabilities. Dr. Friesen was recently voted "Best Doctors '09" by his peers in the August issue of St. Louis Magazine.

## Workshop #3

February 12, 2010 – Friday

8:15 a.m. Registration

8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Presentation

12:00 p.m. Miriam School and Miriam Learning Center Tours

Presented by **Jim Russell Ph.D., N.C.C., L.P.C.**

### **The Twice-Exceptional Person: Gifted/LD**

What does "Twice-Exceptional" mean? How is learning affected when a child is gifted and learning disabled? How does the "Average Person Standards" affect eligibility for accommodations and transitioning? Join us and learn about the cognitive and emotional difficulties experienced by the twice exceptional child. *This workshop is specifically designed for school counselors, gifted resource and special education teachers, LPC's, social workers*

*and other professionals who work with gifted/special education children.* Certificates of attendance will be available upon request.

**Workshop #4**

**February 18, 2010 – Thursday**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Presented by Miriam School Occupational Therapists**

**Do You Feel What I Feel?**

How do we know when to pull our hand away from a hot stove? Tactile sensation is our ability to learn from our environment through our sense of touch. Learning and paying attention in a classroom setting is dependent upon the ability to integrate and organize information from our senses. Miriam School's Occupational Therapists present a simulations workshop to better understand the Hypersensitivity (Tactile Defensiveness) versus Hyposensitivity to Touch (Under-Responsiveness) and how it impacts learning. When a student's sensory system is intact, learning can be effortless and easy; however, immature systems make paying attention and therefore learning difficult and frustrating. Let Miriam's Occupational Therapists help you bridge the gap.

**Workshop #5**

**March 10, 2010 - Wednesday**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Presented by Miriam School Staff**

***Parent to Teen***

**How to Teach Your Child with Disabilities about Sexual Health**

Parents have a key role in helping their child develop an informed and healthy attitude toward sexuality. However, this is easier said than done when your child has learning disabilities. This workshop, taught by Miriam School staff, will give you the tools to help talk to your child about this important, and sometimes uncomfortable, subject.

Directed toward parents of pre-teens and teenagers, this seminar will help parents learn how to interact with their children — no matter their age or ability — in a way that increases self-esteem, encourages safe behavior, empowers them to recognize their own sexuality and enables them to develop enriching relationships.

**Workshop #6**

**April 8, 2009 – Thursday**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Presented by Jewish Family & Children's Service**

***Sound Advice - for parents of children newly diagnosed***

Your child has been diagnosed with a learning or attention disability – what's next? Natural reactions for parents are to ask questions, communicate concerns, face fears and determine options on how to appropriately handle a variety of stressful situations related to their child's disability. The goal is simple – to provide strategies to strengthen parents' abilities and skills in coping with the ways in which a learning disability affects their child and their family as a whole. This workshop will provide information, community resources, practical strategies for coping and handling stress, and solution-focused planning.