



## 2009 Summer Experience Program for Children with Learning Barriers

This summer **ATN** is opening its doors to children between the ages of 8 to 12 years who would benefit from an enrichment program that offers both structured and unstructured experiences that are customized to meet their learning style and needs.

### Children will be introduced to:

- Specialized software and computer programs through activities that promote team work, exploration, research, and hands-on learning
- Community-based activities that will support social skills development and provide needed local resources and contacts
- Supportive and Fun Learning Environments
- Unique Learning Strategies and Self-Advocacy Skills development
- Assistive Technology – Word Q, Inspiration, Kurzweil, and more

The outcome of this **Summer Experience Program** will be Environmental Awareness, Independence, Socialization Opportunities, and New Skills

ATN's goal is to help empower children who learn differently through the use of assistive technology and unique programming events that foster self-understanding and self-advocacy skills.

**Where:** **ATN Access Inc.**, 141 Dundas Street, Skill Centre, Room 505 (Entrance is accessible from Covent Market Lane as well as wheel chair accessible)

**Time:** The Camp will run:  
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 9 am to 12:00 pm  
- Tuesday, Thursday - 9 am to 3:30 pm

**When:** Choose the week you would like to enroll your child  
Session 1 - July 13<sup>th</sup> to July 24<sup>th</sup>  
Session 2 - July 27<sup>th</sup> to August 7<sup>th</sup>  
Session 3 - August 10<sup>th</sup> to August 21<sup>st</sup>

...contact Mary Rushe at ATN: 519-433-7950 or [maryr.atn@gmail.com](mailto:maryr.atn@gmail.com) for criteria and registration details.

**Call Now and Register as Class Size is Limited.**



Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario  
London Region



UWO Centre for Inclusive  
Education



## Delaware Speedway Drivers Assisting ATN Access for Persons with Disabilities Inc

By Hope Clark

This is the fifth consecutive year, the Siskinds Law Firm and BT Racing teams are helping ATN spread the word about disabilities.

The #77 Siskinds Law Firm and Traction Super Stocks is driven by Darrell Lake and sports the ATN logo on its side window. Also in this division is the BT Racing Team #28 Saratoga Homes car driven by Kris Lawrence.

In the Junior Racing League at Delaware Speedway the three BT Team cars helping ATN are: the #28 driven by 14 year old Jordan "Jo" Lawrence, the #50 driven by 17 year old Kristopher Lawrence and the newest BT car on the track #66 is driven by 12 year old Lucas Manning.

All of these drivers are supporting ATN by displaying our logo, handing out information flyers and newsletters.

The Super Stocks are on the oval most Friday nights in the summer and the Junior Race Division runs on Wednesday evenings.



Photo courtesy of: KPG Photo Graphics

## How about other Summer Camps for Children with Learning Disabilities?

By Hope Clark

Finding the right summer camp can be a difficult chore on its own. Finding a camp that meets the needs of children with learning disabilities can be exasperating. ATN did a little research and found out that there is a great deal of information on the internet, information on specialized camps and information that can assist you in your search for the perfect summer camp experience. Some of these camps offer year-round programs, programs for adults, and programs for young adults. The following list includes a sampling of camps available.

ATN **has not checked credentials or references** for these camps and therefore this list is provided to you for informational purposes only. We suggest that you do your research on any camp that you might send your camper to. Ask for testimonials or references from former campers and their parents.

If you are interested in working at a summer camp, some of these camps have job postings on their websites. You can also check out: [www.campjobs.com](http://www.campjobs.com).

### **ATN presents 'Computer' Summer Camp** [www.atn.on.ca](http://www.atn.on.ca)

141 Dundas Street Suite 501

London, ON N6A 1G3 Phone: 519.433.7950

ATN's goal is to help build self esteem in children who have Learning Disabilities and have experienced academic barriers. ATN gives your child a chance to discover new strengths and abilities. This is a small camp with a maximum of 6 children so spaces are limited.

### **Camp Kirk** [www.campkirk.com](http://www.campkirk.com)

1083 Portage Road

Kirkfield, Ontario K0M 2B0 Phone: 705.438.1353

Established in 1993, Camp Kirk is a residential (overnight) summer camp for boys and girls age 6 to 13 with special needs such as: Learning Disabilities; Attention Deficit Disorders (ADD); Some Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Camp Kirk is unique in that each and every camper has some form of learning disability.

### **Camp Winston** <http://www.campwinston.com/>

1147 River Lane

Pvt R.R. #2

Kilworthy, ON. POE 1G0 Phone: 416.487.6229

This camp operates a residential recreational summer programme for campers with complex neurological disorders such as: Tourette syndrome, ADD, ADHD, learning disabilities, oppositional defiant disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, anxiety disorder, autism and other pervasive development disorders, spectrum disorders.

### **Camp Kodiak**

<http://www.campkodiak.com/index.htm>

General Delivery

McKellar, ON P0G 1C0

Toll Free 1 877 569-7595

Kodiak campers range in age from 6-18 and include children & teens with and without learning disabilities, ADD & Asperger syndrome.

### **Camp Kennebec** <http://campkennebec.com/>

1422 Cox Rd R. R. # 2

Arden, ON K0H 1B0

Tel: 1 877 335-2114

This is an integrated summer residence for children with ADD, ADHD, learning disabilities, behavioural needs as well as mainstream campers.

## Transitions

By Joe Nolan, PhD

As the school year ends, many are faced with transitions. Either from one grade to another, one school to another, one town to another, from High School to College, High School to the work force; all face the stress of adjusting to a new environment. In keeping with my recent articles touching upon Universal Design, I thought I would spend this article discussing the concept of Universal Design in handling the transitions of life. After all, it is not just individuals with disabilities who face transitions in their everyday life and throughout their life spans.

When I teach Secondary Transition training courses to undergraduate students, it often amazes me how many of these university students are learning life skills such as keeping a budget, economical grocery shopping, checking account and credit management, for the very first time. In short, we can all use a little help getting through the transitions of life.

Some provinces and school boards have gotten the right idea on transition training with a Universal Design philosophy. For example, Saskatchewan Education has a curriculum guide for Life Transitions. This 400 page guide covers personal self knowledge and relationships, time management, community issues, health, money management, career planning, independent living, parenting, job search in a manner that provides both the teacher and student with scripted resources to address these important and sometimes worrisome topics.

A few years ago, ATN's LD Edge Initiative embarked on a transition resource guide. This resource was designed to assist individuals with Learning Disabilities, their schools, employers, and the community with a goal towards lessening the uncertainty of life transitions. This guide entitled the "LD Edge Transition and Accessibility Guidelines" produced a guide and CD which explored all the transitions from Infancy through Retirement and was "intended to ensure a consistent level of support across all transitions for people with LDs." The guidelines package was divided into areas addressing school and workplace, and even included a section on Small Business Accessibility. Throughout the package, checklists and forms are provided in order to assist schools and employers in facilitating accessibility for individuals with Learning Disabilities throughout the transition from school to work. While this package is designed towards accommodating those with Learning Disabilities, it could, with little adaptation, be used for all students in their transition process.

While the majority of this article has concentrated on dealing with major life event transitions, maybe we should spend a little time just dealing with the transitions that might occur this summer. For example, parents often look at summer as a break from dealing with the day to day school grind of their children, instead of helping their children deal with the transition to a new class, new teacher, perhaps new friends, even a new school. While it is often difficult to get to know the new teacher before the school year begins, there are many ways to prepare a child socially for the next school year. Day camps, community activities, youth sports, are all ways that the student might meet future classmates and develop friendships before school starts. While we don't want to remind the child of the forthcoming trials of September while still in the middle of June, there are things we can all do to minimize the trauma of the first week of school.

So, parents, enjoy the summer. Take advantage of the many camps and workshops available for your children. For those of you who are encountering major life transitions, you might want to look at some of the resources out there, including the LD Edge Transition and Accessibility guidelines, available through ATN. Have a great summer!

### References,

LD Edge Transition & Accessibility Guidelines for Accommodating, Persons with Learning Disabilities (2006). London, Ontario: ATN Access Inc.

Life Transitions 20,30. (1996) Saskatchewan Education.

A special Message from David Lepofsky, Chair of the AODA Alliance

## **ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ALLIANCE**

### **PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THE AODA ALLIANCE'S EMAIL UPDATES**

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance is a non-partisan province-wide, volunteer community coalition. We advocate for a barrier-free Ontario for all persons with disabilities.

We work with the Government, the disability community and the public to promote the effective implementation of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

We are eager to reach out to anyone, whether or not they have a disability, who is interested in the cause of accessibility for persons with disabilities in Ontario, whether their interest is personal or professional.

We have an email update service that can give you periodic, timely updates on what's new in the effort to promote a barrier-free Ontario. These updates give you news you cannot easily find elsewhere.

We invite you to sign up for these email updates. This is not a "heavy traffic" list that will clutter up your computer's inbox! If you would like to receive our updates, send a request to [aodafeedback@rogers.com](mailto:aodafeedback@rogers.com)

If you know others who might be interested in this, please encourage them to sign up for our email updates.

David Lepofsky,  
Chair, AODA Alliance

You can learn lots more about us, by visiting: <http://www.aodaalliance.org>

## Contact Us:



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If you have any information, articles or submissions to share with us, please contact us at anytime.

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E-mail: [info@atn.on.ca](mailto:info@atn.on.ca)  
Web: [www.atn.on.ca](http://www.atn.on.ca)

We hope you have enjoyed this month's issue of the LD Edge Newsletter and that you are looking forward to the next issue.



For an Adobe Acrobat (PDF) version of this document click on the link "LD Edge Newsletter" at: [www.atn.on.ca](http://www.atn.on.ca)

If we give them an edge,  
They may give us one!

## Speakers Bureau Update...

Our **Speakers Bureau** is off and running with presentations being made to community groups and employers. Each of our current speakers has a 30-40 minute presentation that they can bring to your workplace, meeting or event free of charge. Each speaker has their own unique presentation that shares their personal experience of living and succeeding with a Learning Disability.

To book your presentation, please call us today at 519-433-7950 ext 372.

ATN Access Inc. would like to thank the London Community Foundation for their generous support of the Speakers Bureau initiative.

