

Creating Connection and Supporting Transitions: A Caregiver Series.

We invite families of students in grades K-12+ with intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or autism spectrum disorder to access valuable resources and guidance through the upcoming virtual series, Creating Connection and Supporting Transitions. This informative series is designed to equip caregivers with the tools and knowledge needed to support their youth as they transition through and beyond the school years.

The series, which runs from September to June 2026, will provide information on critical topics such as service coordination, transition planning, employment readiness, independent living, and building lifelong community networks. This monthly series will focus on empowering caregivers to:

- Support self-advocacy and independence at home and at school
- Understand education and pathway planning (including IEPs, modifications, and goal setting)
- Connect with community agencies and resources for post-secondary planning
- Build the confidence and tools needed to help your child navigate school, work, and life after graduation

We know that transitions can be complex — but you're not alone. Together, we'll learn how to create strong plans, strengthen student voice, and make sure no opportunity is missed.

Dates and Times are in the chart below

Where: [Virtual](#)

Each session will include:

- A short presentation on key transition topics
- A featured guest speaker from a local or provincial community agency
- Q&A and discussion time for caregivers to connect and ask questions

All caregivers are welcome — whether your child is in Grade 1 or Grade 12. It's never too early to plan ahead, and never too late to get connected.

Please reach out to angela.catcher@ugdsb.on.ca for questions or more information

MONTH	TITLE OF SESSION	GUEST SPEAKERS
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SEPTEMBER 25 @ 6:30pm	Raising Strong Self Advocates and Pathway Planning Sept 25 @6:30pm virtual We'll explore how to support student voice, identity, and self-determination from an early age — and why it's essential for future success. 👉 During this session, we'll also collect feedback on preferred times for future sessions.	Angela Catcher
OCTOBER 16 @ 5-7pm	Parent Resource Fair @ Westside Secondary School Oct 16 @5-7pm	Various Community Agencies
OCTOBER 29th @ 12-1pm	CICE Oct 29 @ 12:00-1:00pm What is CICE, how do I apply and why should I consider it	Sarah Wardell- Conestoga College CICE
NOVEMBER 26 @ 12-1pm	Passport Services Nov 26 @ 12:00-1:00pm Key areas to consider: education, employment, independent living, and social integration plus an introduction to available community supports and services.	Ashlyn Northfield
DECEMBER	Enjoy the holidays	
JANUARY 28 @ 6:30-7:30pm	Compass/Access Information and Referral Services and DCAFs Jan 28 @ 6:30-7:30pm Overview of service coordination, programs, supports, and who to contact for assistance and the importance of early transition planning for youth in grades 7-12+. Common barriers and how to overcome them.	Will Wycherley/Paula Bromby/Andrea Wyshniosky
FEBRUARY 25@ 12-1pm	ODEN Meaningful Employment Feb 25 @ 12-1pm	Angela Catcher
MARCH 25@ 12-1pm	DSO March 25 @ 12-1pm Eligibility criteria and application process and tips for navigating the system and maximizing funding use.	Sarah, Paeton, and Christine
APRIL	TBD April 29 @ Connecting with community support and peer networks and building social and life skills necessary for adulthood	TBD
MAY	Guelph Parent Resource Fair @ Our Lady of Lourdes (date tbd)	Various community agencies

