



The Aulneau Renewal Centre Presents:

# Sibshops: Workshops for Siblings of Children with Special Needs

Aulneau Renewal  
Centre  
228 Hamel Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
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**Julie Walsh**  
B.A., M.S.W

**July 19,20 & August 16,17, 2011**

Starts at 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

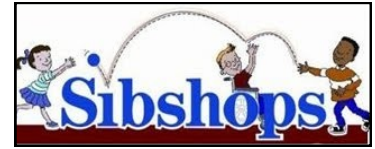
**At the Aulneau Renewal Centre**  
228 Hamel Ave, Winnipeg, MB.

Sibling relationships are beautifully complex and contain a wide range of feelings in a given day; love, frustration, loyalty, rivalry, and friendship. Having a sibling with special needs often heightens these conflicting feelings, and may impact each child in a variety of ways. For the typically developing child having a sibling with special needs may result in feelings of fear, guilt, embarrassment, responsibility, and resentment. However, this relationship is also a source of pride, and can result in increased patience, compassion, empathy, maturity and a more rounded perspective in life. For the child with special needs the sibling relationship is imperative to social skill development, and will likely be the longest and most enduring relationship in their lives.



Sibshops are workshops for the brothers and sisters of kids with special needs which bring these 'sibs' together in two languages that are universal to all children: play and shared experience. Utilizing a highly engaging and recreational approach, Sibshops provide peer support for the typically developing siblings by offering a venue for such children to celebrate themselves and their families. Sibshops take a wellness approach by recognizing that most families of children with special needs are healthy and resilient, thus Sibshops are not group therapy but the results may be therapeutic. This series of Sibshops is targeted at **siblings of children with developmental needs** (Autism Spectrum, FASD, Down 's syndrome, PDD-NOS) **who are between 8-12 years old.**

The Goals of the Sibshop model are:



1. Sibshops will provide brothers and sisters of children with special needs an opportunity to meet other siblings in a relaxed, recreational setting.
2. Sibshops will provide brothers and sisters with opportunities to discuss common joys and concerns with other siblings of children with special needs.
3. Sibshops will provide siblings with an opportunity to learn how others handle situations commonly experienced by siblings of children with special needs.
4. Sibshops will provide children with an opportunity to learn more about the implications of their siblings' special needs.
5. Sibshops will provide parents and other professionals with opportunities to learn more about the concerns and opportunities frequently experienced by brothers and sisters of children with special needs.

*The description of the Sibshops (including goals) has been adapted from SIBSHOPS: WORKSHOPS FOR SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (Donald J. Meyer & Patricia F. Vadasy, 1994, Baltimore: Brookes Publishing)*

## Aulneau Renewal Centre

### Sibshops:

### Workshops for Siblings of Children with Special Needs

#### Registration Form

Mail / Fax registration to: Marie Hutchison  
Aulneau Renewal Centre 228 Hamel Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2H 0K6  
Telephone: (204) 987-7090 Fax: (204) 987-8880 E-mail: admin@aulneau.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (W): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$120.00 ( \$30 per day ) Please register by July 11th, 2011**

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ Please make cheque payable to (and send to): *Aulneau Renewal Centre***  
**Sibshop scholarships are available for families who may not be able to afford the fee.**

#### **PRESENTERS**

**Julie Walsh** holds a Masters in Clinical Social Work from the University of Manitoba, focusing on disability related issues and approaches to supporting individuals with disabilities, as well as individual, group, and family approaches to therapy. She has experience working with and supporting families who have children with special needs. She has also spent the last five years practicing child and family therapy, with a focus on attachment-based and play/recreational approaches. She was trained in the Sibshops model by its creator: Don Meyers and received this training at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester MN.