



## B-17 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) -- Networking and Discussion

Special Education  
Advisory Committee  
(SEAC)

206A

Led by a group of presenters including staff from Surrey Place School Support Program (SSP), this workshop will provide an opportunity for parents to broaden their understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Parents will be able to:

- Ask questions about the exceptionality
- Gather tips about successful strategies for supporting the child
- Make connections with and learn from support organizations, TDSB staff and each other

### Resources

Autism Society of Ontario (Toronto Chapter) [www.autismontario.com](http://www.autismontario.com)  
Surrey Place Centre [www.surreyplace.on.ca](http://www.surreyplace.on.ca)

## Presenters

### Lydia Tisma

**Special Education Consultant, Autism Services, TDSB** - [Lydia.tisma@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Lydia.tisma@tdsb.on.ca)

In this role, Lydia supports students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as they transition from Intensive Behaviour Intervention settings to school. Since 2003, Lydia has been a contract lecturer with Ryerson University, teaching the Assessment for Programming course.

### Sara Yelland

**Special Education Consultant with TDSB Autism Services** - [Sara.yelland@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Sara.yelland@tdsb.on.ca)

Sara has a background in teaching students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and students with Developmental Disabilities. In her current role, she supports students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder as they transition from Intensive Behaviour Intervention settings to school.

### Lisa Kness

**Special Education Advisory Committee Representative for Autism Ontario – Toronto** - [knesslisa@gmail.com](mailto:knesslisa@gmail.com)

Lisa, the mother of a child with Autism, has been active in advocacy for many years. A dedicated Autism Ontario Toronto Chapter member and part of the CLC this year, she is passionate about inclusion and raising awareness about the issues faced by children on the Spectrum, their families and communities.

### Gillian Marshall

**Special Education Coordinator, Learning Centre 4, TDSB** - [Gillian.marshall@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Gillian.marshall@tdsb.on.ca)

Gillian has been working in Special Education for 28 years as a teacher, consultant and a coordinator. She has supported students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 across the Greater Toronto Area. Her current role supports school administrators, teachers and parents with the various aspects of special education programming.

### Laurie Jantzi

**Special Education Coordinator, Learning Centre 3, TDSB** - [laurie.jantzi@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:laurie.jantzi@tdsb.on.ca)

Laurie has a 17 year-old son with special needs. She is passionate about helping her son succeed at school and in life. Laurie has worked in the TDSB for 20 years as a teacher and Special Education Consultant and Coordinator. She enjoys helping parents, students, and school staff work together.