



Reach the Most “Difficult” Students in your Classroom: Improve Learning and Change Lives

Facilitator(s):	Jody Carrington
Date:	September 28, 2017
Time:	9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Cost:	\$75.00 (includes lunch, which is not prepared in a nut/gluten-free environment)
Location:	Edmonton (Radisson Hotel South) 4440 Gateway Blvd. NW
Session Code:	18-MH-078



Target Audience

Grades K - 12 Teachers, Educational Assistants, Coaches, Administrators, District Leaders and other School-based Staff

About this Learning Opportunity

Learn new strategies and different approaches that can help you connect to those students who need it most. “The only way to their minds is through their hearts”. Human connections shape the connections in our brain and school staff spend more time with our children than parents do in an average week.

The most “difficult” children who are in our classrooms are often the most emotionally dysregulated. They likely have “behavioural” diagnoses that include “Oppositional Defiant Disorder” and sometimes “Conduct Disorder”. Often there is a trauma history that is difficult to understand or know how to respond to because, after all, our job is to “teach”. When teaching kids with a history of trauma or those who have difficulty with emotional dysregulation, however, we often require a whole lot less “pedagogical skill” and a whole lot more “relationship”. Our long history of behavioural modification strategies with dysregulated children and teenagers can often, in fact, do more harm than good.

Learn how being “crazy about kids” can improve learning and change lives.

About the Facilitator(s)

Dr. Jody Carrington is a Clinical Psychologist who has spent most of her career working with children and families. For 10 years, she worked on the Mental Health Inpatient Units of the Alberta Children’s Hospital, where she became a believer in the power of the relationship in assisting kids and their families who are struggling with emotional dysregulation. She now practices out of Olds, Alberta, where she lives with her husband and three children, and works closely with a number of school divisions in Alberta.

Dr. Carrington’s work around attachment has become her passion. Understanding how to connect with our kids is a powerful skill, and one that is not always as easy as it sounds. She believes that human connections shape neural connections. Through the relationships that our babes have with their parents and school staff, they begin to develop the “story” of themselves and others around them, and they decide two things: whether they are worthy of love and support and whether they are capable and competent beings. Our kids are in constant search of the “bigger, stronger, kinder, wise”; they need an anchor. When they have these things in place, they have a much greater chance of developing into strong, healthy, and competent adults.

This learning opportunity is being provided through funding from Alberta Education.