

# ADDvantage

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## Lorelei Faulkner draws them in

HER appearances at CHADD's monthly meetings draw standing-room-only crowds.

And last time she spoke to us, we never did get to the original topic.

Meet Lorelei Faulkner, the clinic nurse and coordinator for the ADHD assessment clinic at Children's & Women's Health Centres in Vancouver.

She has been involved with the clinic since its inception in 1993 at Vancouver General Hospital. The clinic moved to Children's & Women's Health Centres in 1994 when all child and mental Health Programs were amalgamated. Lorelei has been an instrumental team member influencing the day to day functioning of the clinic.

Lorelei — she emphasizes that her name is pronounced "Lore-LEE" — has a number of responsibilities at the clinic. She reviews most of the clinic referrals and makes suggestions to referral sources about community resources and requests additional information that would make the assessment process run smoother for the patient and family. Lorelei often participates in the assessments of children and youth with ADHD. As the clinic is a provincial resource, out-of-town referrals are often complex.

Lorelei coordinates these assessments with the clinic team and is always involved in the assessments. Lorelei assists families

to connect with follow up resources in the family's local community.

One of Lorelei's talents is education. She facilitates workshops, presentations and groups for parents, families, educators and other health professionals about the diagnosis, treatment and management of ADHD.

Lorelei works closely with community partners to ensure up to date information is available to families.

Lorelei is one of CHADD Vancouver's professional advisors.

Lorelei also works closely with the clinic psychiatrists, especially during a medication trial. Many families need support, education and understanding during this time and Lorelei is able to provide that. Lorelei works closely with the

clinic's multidisciplinary team and often works together with other clinic staff providing individual and family counseling and groups. Lorelei has a special interest in adult education and sibling relationships.

Lorelei received her nursing diploma from the Vancouver Hospital School of Nursing in 1988. Prior to working in the clinic, Lorelei worked for six years on the adolescent inpatient unit at VGH (now at Children's & Women's Health Centre). Lorelei went on to pursue her bachelor of science degree in Nursing through the University of Victoria.



Lorelei Faulkner

As an adjunct to the educational work she does, Lorelei has also gained a certificate in the provincial instructional skills program at Vancouver Community College. Lorelei has her certification in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing through the Canadian Nurses Association. Her next educational pursuit will be a master's degree, likely with the University of B.C. Among her personal interests are the outdoors, music, family, friends and her three "fur children," who keep Lorelei busy and happy.

## Promoting success in the new school year

By Claudia

The beginning of each school year for parents of children with ADHD/ADD can be a challenging and often frustrating time. Planning ahead and some extra care in organizing can help to avoid some of the pitfalls that parents often face. Here are a few suggestions offered to encourage success and independence in school endeavours for these challenging children.

1. Keep a special file on your child. Place in the file all assessments, psychoeducational testing and other information that pertains specifically to your child — how he/she learns best and what the deficits may be. Keep this file as a running record from year to year. Include a small diary where you may keep notes as things occur. These will become invaluable if, at a later date, your child needs special services or adaptations, especially around exams. If your child has trouble taking notes while he/she is listening to a lesson or is watching an educational video—ask the teacher for a copy of the board notes. In some cases a "scribe" or