

# Central Alberta Regional Consortium

## Working Together: Making a Difference



Promoting student achievement and school improvement through professional development.

## The Role of Early Experience in Brain Development

*with Robbin Gibb*

Date: **Friday, October 14, 2011**

Venue: **River Glen School, Rm 133**

Time: **9:00 am - 3:30 pm**

Address: **4210 59 St., Red Deer**

Cost: **\$50 or \$225 for Series**

Lunch: **Lunch is Included**

Series: **5-Part Series runs Oct 14, Nov 17, 2011 and Mar 1, Apr 19 and May 3, 2012**

*\*\*This session is made possible through a grant from Alberta Education\*\**

### *Who should attend?*

Pre K – Gr. 2

### *About the session:*

It has been well established that early postnatal experience causes lasting changes in brain and behavioral organization but the details of how this happens are still poorly understood. Robbin will discuss how the impact of environment affects brain development and brain plasticity. Examples from animal models and the human literature will be provided that illustrate how environment interacts with our genes to shape brain development and consequent behavior. She will discuss factors that influence brain development in the prenatal and postnatal periods as well as preconception influences on brain development. Robbin will also speak on factors that influence brain development in the early years and how parents and educators can optimize their impact on this process.

### *About the facilitator:*

**Robbin Gibb** is Assistant Professor in Neuroscience at the University of Lethbridge. She has conducted research on pre and postnatal environmental stimulation, maternal touch and stimulation and the relationship between the protein-like growth of the skin and its affect on recovery from early brain injury. The focus of Robbin's current research is to determine how early experience influences brain development and overall physical and behavioural outcomes and what effect these changes have on subsequent experience.

Robbin has made several presentations to parent education groups and Judicial Organizations (National Judicial Institute, British Columbia Supreme Court and Nova Scotia Supreme Court) on brain development in children. She has presented a series of talks on brain development across the lifespan and recently presented a lecture on Brain Plasticity and Early Brain Injury at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. Robbin was a keynote speaker at the Westcast conference for student teachers in Western Canada. She is currently working with Barons-Eureka-Warner Family and Community Support Services as a consultant on programming and evaluation at Parent Link Centres in the Taber, Coaldale, Raymond areas in Southern Alberta.

*Register Online at: <http://www.carcpd.ab.ca>*

**Central Alberta Regional Consortium**

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