

Jocelyne LeBlanc Boulet joceboulet@gmail.com

A career in the education field for over 35 years with schools in Manitoba: Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Notre Dame de Lourdes as well as Iqaluit and Yellowknife, Jocelyne has a varied approach to teaching and learning. From classroom teacher to school counsellor and principal, Jocelyne has a deep understanding of the education system. Nonetheless, when raising awareness for support services required by her son with FASD, she quickly realized how complex these negotiations really are.

Raising a child with FASD can be complex enough, add severe dyslexia and anxiety and one develops an intimate relationship with the student support services team of the child's school. Although a working member of this system, Jocelyne discovered how intimidating and confusing the various meetings, plans and implementation of such plans could be. While working towards a more equal partnership in the interventions required for her son, she began to slowly understand why so many families are reluctant to attend, much less participate or understand, the approaches proposed by schools. In her work as administrator and school counsellor, she adapted her discussions, meeting times or locations and discussions with families and students needing support to succeed in class. Guided by her own experiences and those of her son, who is graduating from U of M with a Bachelor degree in Social Work, Jocelyn has developed an understanding of how to make the system work to benefit the child. Based on legal documentation and MB education law, she wants to share her strategies and coach families as they advocate for their child with FASD.

In her retirement, Jocelyne has created <u>CONNECTING LINKS</u>, a consultation service which will attempt to provide guidance and clarity for those important school discussions.

Originaire du Nouveau Brunswick et diplômée de l'université de St. Boniface, Jocelyne offre ses services en français si le besoin en est.