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**Got an idea or request to share with us?
Please e-mail Felicity on admin@wcfid.co.za**



TRAINING REPORT:

Thank you to those who took the time to complete our Training Needs Survey last year! Your input gave us lots to consider while drawing up this year's training programme.

More Face-to-Face Training

We are looking forward to seeing many of our members face-to-face this term as we will be hosting most of our training sessions in-person.

Later in the year we will visit our more remote members so that they too can benefit from the experience of in-person training. We will also be exploring how to offer effective hybrid training so that all members can benefit from our visiting speakers.

WCFID Training

Much of our training programme is facilitated by our wonderful members and supporters who share their time and expertise to benefit the broader intellectual disability community. This

allows us to offer a wide range of topics.

The WCFID Training Team itself presents a focused selection of courses, which we can tailor to suit the specific needs of an organisation as requested. These include:

- [**ALL ABOUT ME**](#) – providing sexuality and life skills education to children and adults with intellectual disability
- [**APRON PROJECT**](#) - Learning to Communicate – a tool to assist those with barriers to verbal communication
- [**LEARNING TO USE THE TOILET**](#) – a visual cue resource for toilet training of children (and adults) with intellectual disability
- An Introduction to Intellectual Disability
- Managing Grief in People with Intellectual Disability
- Stress Management
- Teambuilding

Focus on Parents

Parenting a child with intellectual disability is, like all parenting, full of highs and lows and can be a very rewarding experience, but it can also place a real strain on the parents and family. This term we are launching a monthly parent support group and as part of our Wednesday training sessions, Nicolette Ripepi will speak on Parent Support Strategies.

Intellectual Disability Month

As part of our marking of Intellectual Disability Month, we will provide a training session on Intellectual Disability for Educators at Eden School in Worcester on Friday 6 March and an online session for a broader audience on 11 March.

Programme Implementer Training

In Term 4 we completed Part One of the new Programme Implementer Training, which was offered in conjunction with the Rapid Response Team. The current group will complete Part Two this term.

We are in communicating with Western Cape Education Department's Inclusive and Specialised Education Support and hope to be able to hold another series of Programme Implementer training later this year, to accommodate the eight centres who have requested this training.



SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Following a needs analysis within the intellectual disability community the WCFID is planning a pilot project for 2026. Intrinsic to this process is the participation of people with intellectual disability as well as other development partners. This remains our fundamental approach to fostering and augmenting inclusion, participation to strengthen ties and to build collaborative partnerships. We'll keep you posted; details will be shared in the newsletters and on our social media platforms

ADVOCACY REPORT

WCFID's advocacy in the past year led to the partial implementation of Case 18678/2007
<https://shorturl.at/FIq26>

Buses for learner transport were handed over to 10 centres. <https://shorturl.at/po8rF>

The Western Cape Government (WCG) allocated increased funding for the education of children with SPID to R73.9m (2025/26). WCFID are the stakeholders referenced.

<https://shorturl.at/REWtJ>

The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) completed building 25 classrooms at schools for children with SPID during the 2025/26 financial year. <https://shorturl.at/REWt>

WCED appointed an extra outreach team (Learner Support Teacher and therapists) to support children at centres

The transfer of children from centres to school has been sustained and accelerated.

<https://shorturl.at/REWtJ>

WCFID's advocacy contributed to the South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC)

publishing: [Discussion Paper 163](#), Project 148: Domestication of the United Nations

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including the Draft Protection and



RAITH Foundation Intern Report:

I am filled with gratitude as I reflect on my internship at WCFID. It was an interesting journey filled with many lessons, opportunities and meaningful work. Working at the Forum has broadened my understanding of the sector, people with intellectual disability, and the challenges that they face. I'm grateful to have been a part of a team who are passionate about making a positive impact in the lives of people with intellectual disability.

I am honored to have witnessed a product of the Forum's long-lasting efforts and advocacy in holding government accountable to provide transportation for people with intellectual disability at centres. This event, amongst others, taught me the importance of networking, collaboration, persistence and determination in bringing about positive change and achieving social justice.

I've learnt so many valuable lessons and skills that I will carry throughout my career. Thank you to WCFID and The RAITH Foundation for this amazing opportunity of learning and growth. Wishing the Forum, its members and stakeholders continued success and progress for the future and the work that lies ahead.

Althea Benjamin



TERM 1 2026 TRAINING AND EVENTS

GUIDELINES

WHEN ATTENDING TRAINING AT THE WCFID TRAINING ROOM, PLEASE ALLOW EXTRA TIME FOR SECURITY CHECKS AT THE GATE. PLEASE ALSO ENSURE YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE AND VEHICLE LICENSE ARE BOTH UP TO DATE.

- Please note that all training is funding dependent which may result in unforeseen changes to the Training Programme. Check the newsletter and training registration forms for changes.
- Unless specified for a closed group or for members only, training sessions are open to all interested. It is **essential to register** for training.
- Register online at: www.wcfid.co.za
- General Attendance Certificates and CPD/CPTD Attendance Certificates (whichever is applicable) are available for those who attend for the full duration of a training session.
- CPD/CPTD payments: Where CPD/CPTD points are pending, the WCFID will request payment from you once approval for accreditation has been received from statutory/ professional bodies.
- Those who have registered for CPD/CPTD points will be notified of approvals and details for payment via e-mail.
- After your proof of payment has been emailed to Shakira Lakay at: coordinator@wcfid.co.za your CPD/CPTD Attendance Certificate will be emailed to you.

DISCLAIMER: Details shared at training sessions or events are for informational purposes only. It remains the responsibility of the user to carefully consider any additional information. This includes considering individual circumstances, relevant law and legal opinion, before making any decisions based on details shared at the WCFID's training sessions or events.



HELP US TRACK YOUR PAYMENTS!

When paying for training, please add:
Name of individual, or organisation, or centre,
or invoice number (if available) AND the
WCFID payment code, i.e.: Train/19/07/23

Payment codes are unique to each session,
and are shown on the registration form.

REFUND POLICY



SELF-ADVOCACY 2025/2026

Presented by: Melanie Horn, Community Trainer, WCFID, and Shamila Ownhouse, The Living Link Centre

Dates: Thursday, 29 January 2026 (Session 5 of 6)

Thursday, 19 March 2026 (Session 6 of 6)

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Venue: Recreational Hall, Alexandra Hospital, Maitland

This is a no cost, closed group.

The current Self-Advocacy Group is full. Adults with intellectual disability who would like to register for the series beginning in May 2026 can contact our Training Coordinator, Shakira Lakay on: coordinator@wcfid.co.za



UPDATED CLASSIFICATION OF EPILEPTIC SEIZURES

Presented by: Francois de Waal, Carbonado Energy Autism Centre, Registered Counsellor with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

Date: Wednesday, 4 February 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Venue: WCFID Training Room Recreational Hall, Alexander Hospital, Maitland

Cost: Members: R50 per person; R150 per person with HPCSA CPD points

Non-members: R120 per person; R250 per person with HPCSA CPD points

HPCSA CPD points pending.

Knowing what steps to take when someone has a seizure not only protects people with epilepsy from injury but also increases a bystander's confidence and reduces their fear of seizures. In 2025 the seizure classification was updated and simplified. This presentation encourages a reinterpretation of epilepsy as a facet of neurodiversity and argues for a kinder and more expansive engagement with epilepsy that respects both clinical imperatives and lived realities.

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PRINCIPALS MEETING: ALL PRINCIPALS AND SUPERVISORS OF SPECIAL CARE CENTRES/24 HOUR FACILITIES FOR PERSONS WITH SEVERE OR PROFOUND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Facilitated by: Gail Davids, Director, WCFID and Vanessa Japtha, Advocacy Manager, WCFID

Date: Thursday, 5 February 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom

This is a no cost, members only meeting

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



SHONAQUIP PRODUCT SPECIFIC TRAINING

Presented by: Shonaquip Social Enterprise Seating Practitioners and Therapists

Date: Wednesday, 18 February 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

Venue: Shonaquip Head Office, Independence Square, Unit 7 & 8 Corner of Strandfontein Road, New Ottery Rd, Ottery,

Cost: R50 per person. This session is only for members of the WCFID.

Those wishing to apply for HPCSA CPD points, must approach Shonaquip directly.
There will be an additional fee of R350 per person.

Please note: Numbers are limited to 17 participants.

This session will introduce the different posture support devices of Shonaquip, including modular wheelchairs and buggies, back systems and positioners, and explain the difference between basic folding frame devices and full posture support devices. The workshop will help participants to use Shonaquip products to their full capacity and extend their life span to provide the best support for the user. The training will assist with prescription, ordering and basic tender information and will assist therapists to make better informed decisions.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



AN INTRODUCTION TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY FOR EDUCATORS

Presented by: Gail Davids, Director, WCFID, and Melanie Horn, Community Trainer, WCFID

Date: Friday, 6 March 2026

Time: To be confirmed

Venue: Eden School, 164 Fischer Straat, Johnson Park, Worcester

This session will cover a broad range of topics relevant to those working with learners with intellectual disability. For more information, please contact our Training Coordinator, Shakira Lakay on: coordinator@wcfid.co.za



FIRST AID TRAINING (previous Level 1)

Presented by: Medical Education Center (MEC)

Date: Monday, 9 and Tuesday, 10 March 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Venue: WCFID Training Room Recreation Hall, Alexander Hospital, Maitland

Cost: R350 per person; lunch is included in the cost.

Please note: Numbers are limited to 8 participants. For additional information and to register, please contact Sandy Butler on: projects@wcfid.co.za



AN INTRODUCTION TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Presented by: Melanie Horn, Community Trainer, WCFID, and Shakira Lakay, Training Co-ordinator, WCFID

Date: Wednesday, 11 March 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Cost: Members: R50 per person (R150 with HPCSA CPD points)
Non-members: R120 per person (R250 with HPCSA CPD points)

Online via Zoom

HPCSA CPD points pending.

This session will cover the causes and levels of intellectual disability, with a brief introduction to communication and social support.

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UNDERSTANDING CEREBRAL PALSY

Presented by: Candice de Rocha, Physiotherapist, LSPID Team, Metro Education District North Office
Date: Wednesday, 18 March 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Venue: WCFID Training Room, Or Recreation Hall, Alexandra Hospital (TBC).
Cost: Members: R50 per person; R150 per person with HPCSA CPD points
Non-members: R120 per person; R250 per person with HPCSA CPD points

HPCSA CPD points pending.

Candice will cover the types of Cerebral Palsy, available therapies and guidelines for management, with a special focus on young children and teenagers.

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ADVANCE NOTICE: SECOND TERM TRAINING



Book your space at this very popular workshop that always fills up quickly.

MANAGING BEHAVIOUR THAT CHALLENGE USING THE LOW AROUSAL APPROACH

Presented by: Chantal Snyman, Occupational Therapist and accredited STUDIO III Trainer

Date: 22, 23 & 24 June 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Venue: WCFID Training Room and Recreation Hall, Hospital, Maitland

Cost: Members: R2 100.00 per person

Non-members: R2 400.00 per person

The cost includes HPCSA points and a light lunch on all three days.

HPSCSA CPD points approved: 16 Clinical and 2 Ethics points

STUDIO III is a specialist research and training organisation that provides high quality accredited training in the specialist field of managing aggressive and challenging behaviour. STUDIO III promotes the management of challenging behaviour in a nonviolent, gentle and dignified way using 'low arousal' techniques and gentle physical skills.

Please note: Numbers are limited to 28 participants for this internationally accredited training.

If you are interested in attending this workshop, please complete an expression of interest below:

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST](#)

Other training offered by the WCFID during the first term. These groups are all either closed groups, or already fully booked:

22 Jan, 5 Feb, 19 Feb - Programme Implementer training - Cape Town sessions 4,5 and 6.

24 Jan, 21 Feb, 14 Mar - Parent Support Groups

2,3 Feb - First Aid Training

3,4 and 5 Mar - Programme Implementer training - Worcester sessions 4,5 and 6

6 Mar - Introduction to Intellectual Disability for Educators - Worcester



Thank you to those who attend our training - your commitment and continued learning makes a meaningful difference in the lives of people with intellectual disability



Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability

2 Annex Road, 7405, Cape Town

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