The F-Words: Finding the ability in disability

No one likes to be defined by an illness, disorder or disability. Built upon the World Health Organization’s International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, CanChild’s F-words (Favourite-words) encourage people to change their perspectives towards a disability. By emphasizing six key F-words in child development, we can shift our attention to focus on abilities and potential rather than on disabilities.

Join us to learn more about the F-words and how they are reframing disability and providing a holistic way to think about our health.

**SPEAKERS:**

Dr. Andrea Cross  
A postdoctoral fellow at CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research with a PhD in Rehabilitation Science from McMaster University. Andrea focuses on family engagement in research and implementation science and is currently exploring the uptake of a holistic and health-affirming approach to childhood disability.

Dr. Jan Willem Gorter  
Director of CanChild and a pediatric rehabilitation medicine specialist at McMaster Children’s Hospital. His research focuses on the themes of family, function, fitness and future of youth with disabilities and their families when they transition to adulthood.

Dr. Peter Rosenbaum  
Professor of Pediatrics at McMaster University and co-founder of CanChild. Peter recently received the Fondation Paralysie Cérébra/Fondation Motrice Prize at the 30th annual meeting of the European Academy of Childhood Disability in 2018.

Julia Ersilia Hanes  
A student research assistant at CanChild, Julia is now a third-year medical student in Ottawa, and a Canada Games gold medalist in para-athletics. As someone with lived experience of hemiplegia, Julia is an eloquent F-words champion and a role model for many.

Danijela Grahovac & Vasilije  
A Senior Technical Support Analyst at CanChild and a mother of a seventeen-year-old son with cerebral palsy. Danijela is involved in the school systems in Ontario and previously researched the use of SMART boards for children with special needs. Danijela is an internationally-recognized F-words champion.

**Moderated by:**  
André Picard  
Public Health Reporter, The Globe and Mail

**Free registration at:**  
braininstitute.ca/news-events