

The S.M.I.L.E. Program



A Message from the Director

The S.M.I.L.E. Program experienced some varied approaches over the past couple of years. In the spring of 2020, we knew that we needed to work through some variations of programming to ensure that we were able to maintain the connection for our participants with our amazing student volunteers. We had success in implementing virtual programming throughout the fall and winter semesters of the 2020-21 academic year. Another addition to the program was the sharing of activity guides for our participants which were designed and themed similarly to our in-house S.M.I.L.E. sessions! The promotion of maintaining physical activity with family members and guardians was consistent with what was promoted through Participation – we all need to move often to maintain our physical, mental, and social health! Thankfully, we had some in-person S.M.I.L.E. Programming in the fall of 2021, on both Friday night and Saturday mornings, and one weekend session in the spring of 2022! It was an incredible experience to be back in the Acadia Athletic Complex being physically active in the gymnasiums, in the rink, on the track, and in the Snoezelen room. A new addition to our S.M.I.L.E. Programming area is an elevator in the School of Kinesiology. It provides all participants and student volunteers access to GYM 491!

Along with changes in program delivery, we have had some changes in our S.M.I.L.E. Team! There has been a new Canada Research Chair in Healthy Inclusive Communities added as a member of the Faculty in the School of Kinesiology. We would like to welcome Dr. Emily Bremer! We are looking forward to her sharing her expertise in research and programming with S.M.I.L.E. Nikki Matthews, a recent kinesiology honours graduate and co-student director, has taken on a position as a research assistant and administrator with our Program. Her enthusiasm, knowledge, compassion, and kindness will continue to benefit S.M.I.L.E. Thank you to the many student volunteers who have supported the programming over the past couple of years! I would like to take another moment to thank Andrew Roach, our Program Coordinator, who will be stepping down from that position as he has taken on a new role with the L'Arche community in Wolfville. We are thankful and thrilled that Andrew will be able to continue to help us with our weekend programming when we get back in action in the fall!

I hope that all S.M.I.L.E. participants have the opportunity to get outside and move! We can't wait to see everyone back at the Acadia Athletic Complex in the fall of 2022!

Dr. Roxanne Seaman

A Special Note to the Classes of '20, '21, & '22

We want to start by saying an enormous thank you for your dedication, strength, and support of the S.M.I.L.E. program despite the incredible change and difficulty you have gone through over the past two years. Regardless of when you graduated, you dealt with such unanticipated struggles with classes moving online, travel restrictions, isolation, all while living through a global pandemic. Your completion of your degree is an incredible feat, and you should be immensely proud. On top of navigating a pandemic with social, financial, and academic barriers, you still took time out of your schedule to volunteer. The S.M.I.L.E. program cannot run without its students, and you showed up, even when it got difficult. You are amazing individuals, and we appreciate you so incredibly much! Thank you, thank you, thank you.



S.M.I.L.E. Research Study Alert



We have a S.M.I.L.E. Assessment Study coming up soon! Check your email after your 2022/2023 S.M.I.L.E. Registration for more information OR contact Dr. Emily Bremer at emily.bremer@acadiau.ca



This summer Challenger Baseball is partnering with S.M.I.L.E.! Run through the Jays Care foundation, Challenger Baseball is an inclusive adapted baseball program to provide a fun, safe, and outdoor environment for physical activity and to learn the baseball fundamentals! If you are interested in participating, please contact Alexa Urquhart at alexaurquhart@gmail.com



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We would like to say a huge thank you to the incredible individuals and groups who have organized, supported, cared, and fundraised for the S.M.I.L.E. program this past year!

Thank you to:

The '22 Senior Seminar Class for organizing and running the Shoot, Score, S.M.I.L.E. Fundraiser!

Thank you to Harrison Czupalay for your enthusiasm and energy for organizing Autism Acceptance Month Event!

Thank you to everyone at the Acadia Alumni Dinner for your incredible donations, and an extra special thank you to Paul Bailey for donating the raffle prize!

And finally, thank you to the Craig Foundation for their enormous, ongoing support of the S.M.I.L.E. program

To Donate: go to our website smile.acadiu.ca or contact Dr. Roxanne Seaman directly at roxanne.seaman@acadiau.ca