

Good Morning Children First Coordinators:

As many of you know, Children First-BC no longer has a provincial structure supporting the outstanding work you do in your communities. You may also know that work is underway to develop a provincial Early Years Community Developers Institute (EYCDI). The overarching purpose of the EYCD Institute will be to build a stronger, more sustainable and community driven system for the early years in BC by creating mechanisms and infrastructure to strengthen the practice of all of us as EYCD professionals.



There are 5 of us Children First coordinators who served on the BC Children First Advisory Team from 2008 - 2010, supporting the work of the Provincial Coordinator. Now that there is no longer a Provincial Coordinator, we are concerned that until the EYCD Institute is a reality, many of you may be feeling isolated, overwhelmed or un-informed in your communities. We have reviewed the terms of the reference of the BC Children First Advisory Team and - although we have no funding and will be working from the sides of our desks - the 5 of us are committed to continuing the BC-CF Advisory Team and supporting you until the EYCD Institute materializes by:

- supporting the internal capacity of CF coordinators during the transition to an EYCDI
- maintaining the BC Children First website
- acting in an advisory capacity to individual Children First coordinators and initiatives
- participating actively in the development of the EYCDI
- assisting in the planning and delivery of an annual EY-CD gathering or learning event

As of this week we will be sending out a bi-weekly announcements with information on learning opportunities, events and ECD news and research. And, if we can help you with suggestions, advice, or information to support the work you do in your communities, please feel free to email us. Just remember, we have taken this on in addition to the work we do in our communities so we may not always be fast to respond!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BC Early Years Community Developers

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Early Years Community Developers Institute

Thursday, October 21, 2010

Noon - 2:00 PM

Coast Coal Harbour Hotel

1180 West Hastings

Vancouver BC

Please join us for an update and dialogue on the emerging Early Years Community Development Institute (EYCDI). The overarching purpose of the EYCD Institute will be to build a stronger, more sustainable and community driven system for the early years in BC by creating mechanisms and infrastructure to strengthen the practice of all of us who work as EYCD professionals. Many of the early years community development positions in BC have been cut or significantly reduced over the past year. It is imperative that we build a collective voice for the importance of community development and collaboration as core to an effective early child development system in BC. Lunch provided by Success by 6 Provincial Office.

Success by 6 Coordinator Conference

Gathering Our Knowledge – Weaving Our Baskets

Aboriginal Early Child Development

Monday-Tuesday, October 18-19, 2010

Delta Airport Hotel, 3500 Cessna Drive,
Richmond

Sharing Our Knowledge

Wednesday-Thursday, October 20-21, 2010

Coast Coal Harbour Hotel

1180 West Hastings, Vancouver BC

Success By 6 has invited all Children First and Community ECD Coordinators to attend the Success by 6 conference **Sharing Our Knowledge**. Please see the attached agenda for details. There is no financial assistance available for travel or accommodation for those who are not Success By 6 coordinators. Success By 6 will be providing breakfast (October 20, 21) and lunch (Oct. 19 Aboriginal Gathering, 20 & 21). For further information please contact Kim Adamson, Provincial Manager, Success by 6 @ kima@successby6bc.ca. If you wish to register to attend October 20 and/or October 21, please go to this link and register: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CFRegSB6FallConference>.

Webcast: The Role of Play in Human Learning

Monday, October 4, 2010

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

The Canadian Network for Leadership in Education and Early Learning & Care invites you to join a discussion about the role of play in human learning and development. Listen to speakers in the field discuss the importance of play:

- **Janette Pelletier**, Ph.D., Director, Institute of Child Study, OISE, University of Toronto
- **Elizabeth Morley**, Principal, Institute of Child Study Laboratory School, OISE, University of Toronto
- **Dianne Riehl**, Education Officer, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch, Ontario Ministry of Education

Reserve your webcast seat now.

TO REGISTER: Go to: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/666986224>. Space is limited!! Registration closes on Friday, October 1, 2010 at 5:00 pm Eastern Time.

QUESTIONS? For information contact Allison Black at: ablack@councilecd.ca.

EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Wave 4 of Early Development Instrument (EDI) Results Released

Wave 4 of the EDI indicates that close to a third of kindergarten students across BC are behind in key areas when starting school and too many never catch up. "Since we started tracking the progress of BC children 10 years ago, we can clearly demonstrate that child vulnerability is trending upwards," said Dr. Clyde Hertzman, Director of the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC. "Anything more than 10 percent is avoidable under optimal conditions of early childhood so about two-thirds of the developmental vulnerabilities that B.C. children currently experience as they start school is preventable." Provincial and local results can be downloaded at <http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps-and-data/>.

BC Smart Policy 2010 Report Card

The Smart Family Policy Report Card from HELP shares the new Early Development Instrument results showing that vulnerability of kindergarten children has increased slightly in the last year to 30.3% in 53 of 59 school districts, more than double the province's goal of reducing vulnerability to 15% by 2015. Excerpts from the Report Card indicate that:

- No school district or health authority meets the government of BC 15 by 15 goal
- School district rates of early childhood vulnerability are 55% to 325% higher than biologically expected
- Most vulnerable children are not poor
- The cost of early brain drain in BC: 20% reduction in economic growth over six decades...

The Solution? Children thrive when families thrive, so British Columbians need to advance Smart Family Policy that supports all families and young children. Read more in the Smart Family Policy Report Card: <http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/wp-uploads/web.help.ubc.ca/2010/09/BC-Report-Card-FINAL-10-09-16.pdf>

Just Released: The Annual Report of the BC Representative for Children and Youth

The Representative for Children and Youth's Annual Report, covering April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010, is now available on the **RCYBC website**: <http://www.rcybc.ca/content/home.asp> under the **What's New** tab.

Vancouver Implements Middle Childhood Instrument (MDI)

More than 3,000 Grade 4 students in Vancouver completed the MDI, a new research tool that assesses the health and well-being of children in their middle years of childhood, ages 6 through 12. These elements are strongly linked to their well-being, health and academic achievement throughout their school years and in later life. The survey results will help educators, service providers and parents to examine their assumptions and expectations about

child development. The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is the first tool in Canada that provides population-level information about the self-esteem, optimism, overall health, happiness, and absence of sadness of children in middle childhood. "Our findings suggest a clear and urgent need for increased attention to the social and emotional well-being and health of children during the middle childhood years," said Dr. Kimberly Schonert-Reichl, the principal investigator of the study, and a professor in UBC's Faculty of Education and the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP). The report can be downloaded at <http://www.uwlm.ca/mdiforum>.

STAYING CONNECTED

Community development can be lonely work outside of our communities. Here are some ways to stay connected with Early Years Community Developers across the province and informed about what is happening in the world of early child development.

Get LinkedIn to Children First Coordinators

Would you like to connect with other Early Years Community Developers? We invite you to join the BC Children First group - just click on [Join Group](#).

Raising the Village

Children First Coordinators Tracy Smyth and Tammy Dewar (Port Alberni) invite you to visit Raising the Village: <http://www.raisingthevillage.ca> - read their blog, join their mailing list or sign up for a workshop. Tracy and Tammy are the authors of Raising the Village: How Individuals and Communities Can Work Together to Give Our Children A Stronger Start in Life - a great read for any Early Years Community Developer!

Email Newsletter: First Call Weekly Announcements

First Call keeps us up to date with information on the ECD world. Sign up at: <http://www.firstcallbc.org/currentIssues-announcements.html> for their weekly announcements. First Call: BC Child & Youth Advocacy Coalition is a cross-sectoral, non-partisan coalition made up of 90 provincial organizations and 25 mobilized communities. In addition, they have a network of hundreds of community groups and individuals.

Email Newsletter: Child Care Resource and Research Unit

The Childcare Resource and Research Unit (CRRU) is a policy and research oriented facility that focuses on early childhood education and child care (ECEC) and family policy in Canada and internationally. Sign up for their weekly e-newsletter: <http://www.childcarecanada.org/>.

We would love to hear from you! Please contact Helen Davidson at helendavidson@shaw.ca with comments, suggestions and any research or event information that you think would be of interest to Early Years Community Developers across the province.

And if you would like to be removed from this email distribution list please let Helen know.