

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

BC Early Years Community Developers

## EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### Putting Play Into Playgrounds

*From First Call* - A recent study conducted by UBC researcher Susan Herrington found that the play equipment in child care centres does not fully engage children. The equipment was unoccupied 87% of the time during her study. In the 13% per cent of time when children were playing on or around the equipment, it was only used for its intended purpose, going down the slide for example, 3% of the time.

The study found that children enjoy play environments where:

- they had elements for children to manipulate and make their own;
- they contained living things;
- they were sensitive to climate;
- they were designed to the scale of the child;
- they allowed the child's imagination to shape the play experience; and
- they provided areas for children to play alone or in groups.

Read the full report, visit: <http://www.childcareoptions.ca/pdfs/7Cs.pdf>

### School Age Child Care Association and the Emerging Plan for an Integrated Early Care and Learning in BC

*From Tyler Summers (SACCA)* - The School Age Child Care Association (SACCA) is engaging in talks with ECE-BC and the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC to develop the IECL briefing plan with regards to School Age professionals. The wording and level of development around school age care (SAC) in the briefing was purposely left under-developed to give time for this consultation piece to develop under the direction of SACCA and the SAC community. When a reasonable draft of SACCA's position is prepared, an information session will take place with a targeted invitation to key people and organizations.

### Children's Rights are the Responsibility of All British Columbians

In November, the Society for Children and Youth of BC, the BC Representative for Children and Youth, BC Centre for Safe Schools and Communities, and Reel Youth launched a multimedia campaign to increase awareness of children's rights in BC. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international treaty that sets out a wide range of rights for children and requirements for governments in promoting and protecting those rights. The UNCRC has been adopted by every country in the world except for two: the U.S. and Somalia. Canada ratified the UNCRC almost 20 years ago, obligating Canada to promote, implement, protect, and monitor the rights of children. However, while children's rights all over the world

are a part of people's daily lives, an Ipsos Reid survey in BC revealed that 75% of British Columbians were not familiar with child rights.

Visit [www.everychild.ca](http://www.everychild.ca) to find out more about the children's rights awareness campaign.

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These bi-weekly announcements with information on learning opportunities, events and ECD news and research are being sent to you from the BC Children First Advisory Team. Please feel free to email us if we can help you with suggestions, advice, or information to support the work you do in your communities.



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*We would love to hear from you! Please contact Helen Davidson at [helendavidson@shaw.ca](mailto: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.*