

INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
REPORT TO THE PROVINCIAL STEERING COMMITTEE  
**March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**January 13-14** - I had a very successful trip to Fort Nelson to orient Kathryn Ford, the newest consultant in our region. I was also able to meet with Sue Gawne of CDBRA (Canadian Deaf Blind Rubella Association). She supports children in communities outside the lower mainland.

**Jan. 12-** I participate regularly on the Regional Executive Director conference calls. This is very helpful to stay connected and strengthen relationships.

**Jan. 15-** Provincial Parent Child Mother Goose meeting

**Jan.21-** BCEHP Intervention Advisory

**Jan. 28-** Regional conference call hosted by MCFD for AIPD/ IDP  
Infant/ Child Network meeting

**February 3** – Early Years Planning Committee  
Penny Gagnon, ED from Ft. St. John suggested training for executive directors and supervisors. Penny and Lorraine Aitkens are working to develop this further.

**Feb. 4 - LINKED DISC**  
IDP Regional Conference call.

There was a discussion regarding the policy of some agencies to prohibit transportation of families in personal vehicles due to liability issues. This impacts the most vulnerable families, those without any transportation and in most northern communities there is no bus service. We need to find ways to support families to attend groups, meetings appointments etc.

**Feb. 5** – One day symposium on “Africa’s contribution to the study of Child Development” This was an exciting and motivating symposium as it reframed Africa’s contribution to child development research by viewing strengths such as the extended family networks, the collectivism of the culture and challenged us to look at the appropriateness of using assessment tools normed on North American standards.

**Feb. 23-24-25** –BCEHP training

**March 3-4-**Make the Connection training in Nanaimo with Claire and Judith  
I have now completed training as a Master Trainer for MTC in BC  
Judith will complete this within the next training session.  
There is great demand for this program all across BC.

**March 12-14-** International FASD conference in Victoria was exceptional! I have attached the list of sessions I was able to attend.

**Ongoing:**

Work with Lara El Kahtib on the development of the on-line course for SDPP (Social Inclusion Project)

I am on the Board of Directors of the BC Hands and Voices organization and on March 5<sup>th</sup> we had the pleasure of having our AGM with the parents of the Guide by Your Side group. This is a

group for parent to parent contact with families who have just received the diagnosis that their child is deaf or hard of hearing.

Contract work for “Fostering Early Development”, developmental screening for children in care project.

**Regional Contact:**

Weekly contact with programs either via email or phone regarding staffing issues, information on courses and programs and clinical consultation. I also mail resources and journal articles to many of the programs on a regular basis.

Regional Inservice in Prince George on April 23/24<sup>th</sup>.

We will be focusing on using the Gesell with more involved children and Annie Wolverson will be presenting on Attachment and Infant Mental Health.

Next Regional conference call: April 1<sup>st</sup>.

April 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Prince George Infant Development Program.

The staff has done a wonderful job linking this celebration to the rest of the region as most of the program started with outreach from Prince George. It will be a celebration for IDP services in the North! Pictures to follow.

The Northern Attachment Network no longer has funding for coordinator but Shelley Anderson of Prince George continues to take the lead in keeping connections. A number of ID consultants are involved in this network. The focus is to increase the awareness of factors that contributes to infant and child mental health and to build capacity of community organizations and service providers to respond to families where parent-child attachment

April 17-19<sup>th</sup> Quesnel is hosting a conference entitled: Connecting Northern Women.

This conference is in response to a needs assessment that indicated that the top four issues of concern to Northern women are women’s poverty, violence against women, addictions and housing. All these issues have a tremendous impact on families with young children and families with children with additional needs.

May 19 and 20<sup>th</sup> Gesell training at UBC

May 21- Assessment Day at UBC

May 22-23- ECEBC conference. Judith and I will be presenting on session on Make the Connection.

Hope you all enjoy the warm spring weather!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Stewart