

MAKE Children First

Newsletter

KAMLOOPS

Volume 5
June 2010

Investing in Young Children benefits Everyone

Working Groups

Steering Committee

Public Awareness Committee

Research Team

Early Identification Committee

Childcare Action Team

MCF serves as an advisor to the Kamloops Early Learning and Language Initiative (KELLI)

The children of Kamloops are important to everyone...

The work to develop a Children's Charter of Rights is well underway and our goal of launching the community Charter on International Children's Day (Nov 20) will be attained! Submissions from children expressing their rights in words or pictures have been collected from schools, and submissions from other groups are being collected over the first part of the summer. Thanks to our enthusiastic advisory committee and valued partners, the process has been a fast and exciting one. In the words of a 6 year old from Lloyd George Elementary, every child needs "love and carrots, grapes and water...and strawberries too."

2010 State of the Child Report

Set to come out in September 2010, Make Children First is busy compiling information that will give the local early years community and parents a snapshot of how our young ones are doing. This will be an annual report looking at childcare, health indicators, early learning, family economics and well-being, and the places and spaces that make our City child friendly.

This document is meant to stimulate discussions about how well Kamloops is doing in our mission to raise healthy children and encourage everyone to take action when and where they can.



Teddy Bear Picnic—Parent Child Mother Goose Celebration (KELLI)

This little cutie (pictured on left) was just one of the many children and caregivers who participated in the 4th annual Teddy Bear's picnic celebration on June 17th in Prince Charles Park. This great KELLI event hosted over 350 participants with face-painting, story time, music, crafts and a giant Mother Goose circle! Well done!



There is a new free drop-in program for families launching August 20th, 2010! Next Steps is a drop-in group available to parents and their children up to 5 years of age running Fridays between 1:00-2:30.
@ the Public Health Unit—519 Columbia Street

This is a place for moms to connect with other families, weigh their babies and get information from public health nurses on feeding, immunizations, growth and development and access all sorts of other information and referrals.
Another great FREE resource - spread the word!

creating a caring community where all children thrive

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Contact Us

Val Janz—Director of Early Childhood Programs & Make Children First—vjanz@interiorcommunityservices.bc.ca
Sue Lissel—Project Manager, Make Children First—slissel@interiorcommunityservices.bc.ca
Judy Treherne—Early Identification Coordinator—jtreherne@telus.net

Phone: 250-554-3134 Address: 396 Tranquille Road Kamloops BC V2B 3G7

Public Awareness Committee

This committee has had a productive Spring with lots of new marketing ads to show for it...

The new social-emotional TV ad is now playing on CFJC (and other stations) and showcases many local children interacting with their parents and caregivers to bring the community the message that “your time and attention is the greatest gift of all.”

Hopefully you’ve also seen the 2 new buses driving around with colourful pictures and the message “Read, Laugh, Hug, Play—Time Together Everyday.” A poster is also being created with the same message and will be ready in the fall.

The 2011 calendar is all about the Rights of the Child and is in production—look for your copy in November.



Childcare Action Team

The CAT published a full-page advertisement in Kamloops This Week in May of this year to bring the public’s attention to Childcare Awareness Month and is planning another event, so stay tuned for details!

They are also contributing \$1000 to the TRU ECE conference which will feature Stewart Shanker in October.

Business Engagement Committee

A new family friendly toolkit for local businesses was launched this spring. As part of the partnership with Success by 6. Local business are being asked to explore their current practices and policies around family friendly places to shop and HR policies for staff with families. Those who view themselves as friendly to families can display the decal (seen on left) on their business window. Starting looking for them around town!

Early Identification Committee

The 2010 Child Development Information Resource Guide is out and distributed around the City. This year’s guide is full of stories, references and suggestions from local experts to help parents and caregivers support young children to learn and grow.

The Social Emotional Learning Stories Book is complete and printed! If you haven’t received the copies you requested, please contact Val or Sue. Look for events to launch this great resource in the Fall of 2010.



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