

MAKE Children First

KAMLOOPS

Volume 1
April 2009

Investing in Young Children benefits Everyone

MCF Newsletter

Introducing Sue Lissel—MCF Project Manager:

Hi everyone! For those of you I haven't yet met, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and give you an update on Make Children First. I will be completing quarterly newsletters like this to keep you all up to date.

My husband and I moved to Kamloops from Alberta two years ago and I have been looking for work like this ever since. I have a broad educational base in health and physical education and a social/health research background. My community development experience comes largely from my volunteer commitments working to increase the opportunities for girls and women to be physically active throughout the province of Alberta.

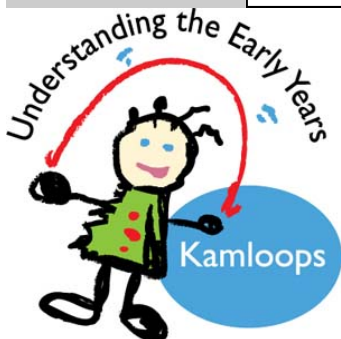
I have been working with Val and MCF since early March (25 hours a week) as the new project manager. Val and I have been negotiating exactly which aspects of the initiative will be my responsibility and I will be primarily working with the research team, public awareness committee and MCF communication strategies. Over time, as the workload for Make Children First evolves, so might my responsibilities. It's been an exciting first month and I look forward to working with all of you to make our community a great place to grow up!

Update on the Research Team

The Community Mapping Report is complete! This document provides a highly detailed glimpse of the social environment our young children and their families live in, as well as, the programs, services and resources that are available to them. The report is available on our website. We are working to widely communicate the findings of the report and are scheduled to speak to the Mayor & Council, the School Board, other committees, etc.

The research team is also working with CURA at TRU to help put together a "Healthy Living in Smaller Communities Expo" in early fall highlighting the needs of children. Plans are in the early stages, but this promises to be an exciting event showcasing food sovereignty, accessibility and movement.

We will also be hearing from Amanda Crabbe, a geography student at TRU regarding a deprivation index she has created which is of interest in conjunction with the mapping report.



Have you seen our new bus ad?

Run, Jump, Play—
Be Active Everyday!



creating a caring community where all children thrive

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Update on the Public Awareness Committee

There are a few ways that MCF used to communicate with the community that Sue will be resurrecting in the coming months. One of these will be to reignite a monthly article in Kamloops This Week and another is a newsletter like this, which will be sent out to the Steering Committee and other community partners to keep everyone more informed. The committee is currently discussing other low-cost ways to get our messages out in the community—more about this coming soon!

The 2010 calendar is already in the works and will embrace messages around Going Green with your kids.

The committee is also brainstorming ideas for involvement in Universal Children's Day in November with hopes of tying this UN recognized day to our work here in Kamloops.

Parents Conference

Was a great success! Gabor Mate was very well-received with lots of feedback from the 75 who attended and almost everyone wanted More, More, More! The organizing group has already met to lay the foundation for the next conference this coming fall.

Early Identification Committee

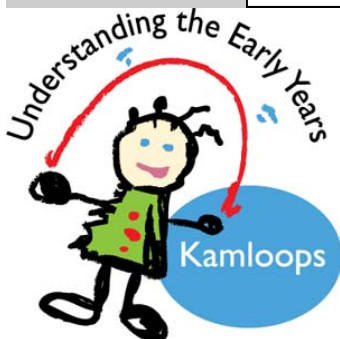
The new 2009 Childhood Development Guide is almost complete and will be ready for June.

Childcare Action Team—Thinking & Playing Differently Conference

Make Children First hosted a one-day conference for all the childcare providers in our community at the end of March. The vast majority responded that they thought the day was a good learning day and team building experience within the network of childcare providers.

Make Children First is working to make our website more user-friendly so be sure to check it out in the coming months

www.makechildrenfirst.ca



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