



**Fraser Valley
Child Development
Centre**

CONNECT

**AUGUST 2007
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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRASER VALLEY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

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Selected Programs Accredited by



Providing services that enhance the quality of life of children with disabilities and their families through direct therapy, early intervention, family support and community development.



A publication of the
Upper Fraser Valley Neurological Society
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We are 25 YEARS young!

“It’s getting better all the time . . .” The Beatles sang it, but we have lived it! And this October we are inviting clients, friends and supporters to join us in celebrating our 25th birthday! Yes, on October 7, 1982, the Upper Fraser Valley Neurological Society (UFVNS) was founded, which in turn created the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre.

It all started when a small group of concerned community members formed a non-profit society that was mandated to bring services for special needs children to the Upper Fraser Valley. At that time Variety Treatment Centre in Surrey (now The Centre for Child Development) provided the only available services—outreach physiotherapy services—three days a week at the Clearbrook

Community Club.

Due to the advocacy of the original board of directors and those who followed, services soon expanded to include occupational therapy and speech and language therapy.

In 1988 the Ministry of Health began funding UFVNS to provide therapy services. The “Abbotsford Children’s Treatment

Centre” was created and Dr. Lionel Traverse joined as Medical Director, a position he still holds. Children from all over the Upper Fraser Valley began to access services.

In 1990 we officially became the “Fraser Valley Child Development Centre,” and The Ministry of Health began making greater investments in community-based therapy services for children, causing yet

Fraser Valley Child Development Centre

Upper Fraser Valley Neurological Society
Fraser Valley Child Development Centre

Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday, September 25, 2007
at 7:00 pm**

Refreshments and Hors D’oeuvres

Ramada Plaza and Conference Centre
36035 North Paralel Rd., Abbotsford BC

R.S.V.P.

604.852.2686 Local 0

See “Celebration” on page 8



**Fraser Valley
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A diversity of needs, a diversity of approaches

Karen McLean,
Executive Director, Fraser Valley
Child Development Centre



Karen McLean

At the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre, we are constantly reminded that no two children or families are the same. Each one has different interests, needs, skills, challenges, resources, and hoped-for results. It follows that there is no "one way" to provide services that will bring about the desired and necessary outcomes.

In our work we are blessed with access to a large variety of skills, expertise, and resources that we organize and use to help the largest number of children possible. We must provide a wide range of supports and services in a way that meets the differing needs of each child and family. This includes varied service frequency, service providers, service locations, service modalities, and community resources.

Over the coming months we at FVCDC will be recommending a variety of ways to support your child's growth and development. As we deeply believe that families play

the most important role in their child's development, we will continue to engage moms, dads, grandparents, and other caregivers in their child's intervention.

"By providing strategies to caregivers that allow them to maximize natural learning opportunities in their daily routines and activities, the child has multiple opportunities for intervention across the day, every day, and in contexts that are immediately meaningful to the child and family"

Lee Ann Jung Ph.D. (2003)

We will provide services to you and your child through home visits, clinics, groups, individual consultation, and therapy. Each child and family served by our early intervention team will have a service coordinator assigned to them who will provide access to the expertise and resources of the FVCDC. As much as possible, the same service coordinator will work with you as long as you are accessing our services. Other professionals involved with you and your child may change over time, depending on your needs, priorities, and the available resources.

The team of professionals at the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre wants to provide the best possible services and looks forward to working with you and your child.

New Staff Member Supports South Asian Families

Amarjit Pabbi has joined FVCDC as a Family and Community Support Worker for South Asian families in Abbotsford, Mission, and Chilliwack. She is working under the direction and supervision of the Director of Family Services, Jane Gladman. Amarjit will provide information to families about the FVCDC and its programs, community resources, and agencies. She will also serve as a liaison between FVCDC staff and families.

In addition to these responsibilities, Ms. Pabbi will provide linguistically and culturally competent support, consultation, education, and referral services to South Asian families in Abbotsford and Mission. Her extensive understanding of South Asian cultures as well as her ability to speak three South Asian languages make her ideally suited to carry out this mandate.

We at FVCDC hope that Amarjit will help remove any linguistic or cultural barriers that prevent South Asian children with disabilities and their families from having timely access to FVCDC and other community resources.

Amarjit works two days a week in Mission and three days in Abbotsford.

ਅਮਰਜੀਤ ਪੱਬੀ ਨੂੰ ਮਈ 07/07 ਤੋਂ ਐਬਸਫੋਰਡ ਅਤੇ ਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਦੇ ਦੱਖਿਨੀ ਐਸ਼ਿਆਈ ਪਰਿਵਾਰਾਂ ਲਈ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਅਤੇ ਕਮਿਊਨਿਟੀ ਵਰਕਰ ਦੇ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਅਮਰਜੀਤ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ, ਜੇਨ ਗਲੈਡਮੈਨ ਦੇ ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ ਅਤੇ ਦੇਖਰੇਖ ਦੇ ਬੱਲੇ ਕੰਮ ਕਰ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ, ਇਸ ਪੱਧਰ ਤੇ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੈਂਟਰ ਤੇ ਉਸਦੇ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮਾਂ, ਬਰਾਦਰੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਸਾਧਨ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਵਰਗਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਾਧਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਜਾਨਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਨਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਪਦਵੀ ਸੈਂਟਰ ਦੇ ਸਟਾਫ ਅਤੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਜੋੜਨ ਦਾ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਉਸਦਾ ਖਾਸ ਕੰਮ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਐਬਸਫੋਰਡ ਅਤੇ ਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਦੇ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਨੂੰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਈ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਸਕਰਿਤਿਕ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਪੂਰੀ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਸਹਾਰਾ, ਸੁਚਨਾ, ਸਲਾਹ, ਪੜਾਈ ਅਤੇ ਸਿਫਾਰਸ਼ੀ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੇਣਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹਦਾ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਦੱਖਿਨੀ ਐਸ਼ਿਆਈ ਲਾਚਾਰ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੇਣਾ ਤਾਕਿ ਲੋੜ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਫਰੇਜ਼ਰ ਵੈਲੀ ਚਾਇਲਡ ਡਿਵੈਲਪਮੈਂਟ ਸੈਂਟਰ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਬਰਾਦਰੀ ਦੇ ਸਾਧਨਾਂ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਸਕਣ।

ਇਸਦਾ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਦੱਖਿਨੀ ਐਸ਼ਿਆਈ ਪਰਿਵਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਜ਼ਿਆਦਾ ਤੋਂ ਜ਼ਿਆਦਾ ਬੱਚੇ ਛੋਟੀ ਉਮਰ ਤੋਂ ਹੀ ਸੈਂਟਰ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦਾ ਫਾਇਦਾ ਮਾਣ ਸਕਣ। ਅਮਰਜੀਤ ਦੇ ਦਿਨ ਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਅਤੇ ਤਿੰਨ ਦਿਨ ਐਬਸਫੋਰਡ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਉਸਦੇ ਕੰਮ ਦਾ ਸੰਭ ਤੋਂ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹਿੱਸਾ ਹੈ- ਪੜਾਈ, ਗਿਆਨ ਅਤੇ ਤਿੰਨ ਵੱਖ- ਵੱਖ ਦੱਖਿਨੀ ਐਸ਼ਿਆਈ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਬੋਲਨਾ।

Possible Extended Occupational Therapy Services for children with At Home or Autism Funding... Are you interested?

School-aged children who are served by the *At Home* Program are potentially eligible to receive 24 hours of additional therapy in six months of PT, SLP or OT. Children with Over 6 Autism Funding may also use the funds for Occupational Therapy. Parents have informed us that although they are interested in extra therapy for their child, the services are difficult to find. We are therefore considering making contracted Occupational Therapy hours available at the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre. We need to know if enough families are interested in contracting these services to make it possible.

If this is of interest to you, please contact Kirstie Glasgow at 604-852-2686, or kglasgow@fvcdc.org.

Sibshop continues a big success!

Kirsten Mueller, BSW, Key Worker, FVCDC Mission

A Sibshop program held in Abbotsford in July helped eight brothers and sisters of children with special needs develop the necessary skills to connect with their siblings. Organized by the Family Services department at the FVCDC and facilitated by Jane Gladman (Family Support Worker) and Kirsten Mueller, (Key Worker), the four-hour workshop for siblings 8-12 uses games and activities that encourage connection. "We all had a wonderful time," reported Kirsten. "The program is very youth-oriented and with games such as 'Go Stand in a Corner!', 'My Very Special Dream, Sound-Off!' and the perennial favorite 'Dear Aunt Blabby,' the kids can't help but have fun while learning. We hope to run more of these workshops in the future."

Sibshop has many benefits. Siblings can:

- Meet other brothers and sisters of children with special needs in a relaxed, recreational setting

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Visit us on the Web at: www.fvcdc.org

- Talk about common joys and concerns with others who know what it's like to have a sibling with a disability.
- Learn how others handle situations commonly experienced by siblings of children with special needs.
- Make new friends and have lots of fun!

Kids Connecting builds friendships

Leona Fountain, Key Worker

What does a child do for fun between spring break and the summer holidays? A group of 8-12 year-olds found the perfect way to spend their Monday afternoons at *Kids Connecting*.

This group gave the children an opportunity to build new friendships and practice how to be a good friend. Four dedicated, fun-loving *Kids in Action* volunteers (Sam, Caelum, Anna, and Manpreet) along with facilitator Leona Fountain worked together to offer themed activities each of the seven weeks that the group met.

The creative abilities of the participants shone through as they designed unique Lego structures and drew amazing graffiti pictures on eight-foot-long sheets of paper. A highlight for the kids was designing human robots from tin foil, paper towel rolls, coloured paper, boxes, and yards and yards of tape!

Other weekly activities included playing human bingo, air hockey, fooseball, board games, and pool. They also used clues to find hidden treasure and designed individual banana splits. The participants also found time to devour lots of different snacks! At the end of each session, participants chose a prize from the treasure chest.

Kids Connecting concluded on June 4 with a bowling party at Galaxy Bowl. It was a great way to meet new friends, hang out, chat, eat, and just have fun.



It's more fun playing together.