

25 years of making futures bright



BC Family Hearing Resource Society

Reaching Out

A Newsletter from the BC FAMILY HEARING RESOURCE CENTRE for families with deaf and hard of hearing children throughout BRITISH COLUMBIA.



Winter 2009

Family Feature

The Shahi Family Find Their Direction

by Carolyn Trengrove, Audiologist/Auditory Verbal Therapy Intern

Shashi and Meenakshi Shahi are originally from Punjab in India and moved to Calgary, Alberta in May 2007 with their two sons, Anirudh 9yrs and Kenneth 3yrs.

Kenneth was diagnosed with bilateral severe sensorineural hearing loss and then received his first hearing aids in March 2008. These did not provide Kenneth with enough hearing to develop language appropriately. The family decided to undergo candidacy assessment for bilateral cochlear implants at Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary. Switch-on of both devices took place on October 22nd, 2008 and the family soon after moved to Surrey.

His parents express that Kenneth's initial diagnosis was a terrible shock to the family, as there is no one in either family who has hearing loss. Kenneth is a very active and social young boy. He enjoys

cartoons, playing on the computer and doing anything with his older brother! He also enjoys riding his tricycle and looking at books; he is eager to communicate.



The family has chosen an Auditory-Verbal Therapy approach to communicating with Kenneth. It has been a wonderful experience so far. Meenakshi shares her thoughts on the family's journey through this heartfelt poem:

*A wife shouts at her husband,
"Why don't you hear me?"
A boss shouts at his employee
"Why don't you hear me?"
When shouting at others people say,
"Why don't you hear me; are you deaf?"*

*So simple to say, "deaf"
So easy to say, "deaf"
But it's very painful
But it's very difficult
And it's so different to experience this easy, simple word, "deaf"*

*Ask a mother who has a deaf child
Probably, she will not be able to utter a word
But the tears rolling from her eyes will say something
Rather she will ask herself, "Why," when she sings lullabies, "does her child not listen?"*

BC Family Hearing Resource Centre 15220 – 92nd Avenue, Surrey, BC V3R 2T8
Voice: (604) 584-2827; TTY: (604) 584-9108, FAX: (604) 584-2800 Toll Free: 1-877-584-2827
website: www.bcfamilyhearing.com e-mail: info@bcfamilyhearing.com

*Ask a father about his experience with his child who is deaf
A father, so strong in emotions, avoids eye contact
“But surely,” he thinks, “I will find the answers.”*

*Siblings will ask out of confusion and fear,
“Who will play with me--
Nurse or Doctor, Child or Teacher?”*

*It is accepted...The child is deaf;
But a child is a CHILD!
Whether he hears or not;
Whether he speaks or not
Still he has the same rights to survival*

*And how long can a mother cry?
And how long can a father be sad and seek answers?*

*After every dark night there comes a dawn
After every loud storm there is calm and surrender
Winter and spring summer and fall
Always one after the other -the passage of time*

*Life and time never stop for anyone... then why for you?
Find your direction
Go ahead—and take any direction
There are so many options*

*Just one
The cochlear implant
Small but amazing instrument
Difficult but rewarding surgery*

*Isn't this wonderful; a dream come true?
The mother sings her lullaby and her child hears
The father gives his advice and the child listens
The sibling calls, “come, we will play” and the child follows*

Nurse or Doctor? Child or Teacher?

*Yes, in this land, everything is planned and anything is possible
And doctor is the helper Associated with angels
His caring and good advisors - Speech therapist, social worker and many more*

*Here I mention one, sweet smiling teacher
When she visits any house the child gets attention
And focuses his concentration
And points to his ears, “I hear, I hear”
What more to say? What more to expect?*

*Right decision at the right time
This is all that matters
Leave your worries to rest
Live with dignity
Don't see your child through eyes of pity
Live with dignity and your child will hold his head high*



Special Feature

Welcome to our New Executive Director!



The Board of Directors and Staff of the BC Family Hearing Resource Society are thrilled to announce the arrival of our new Executive Director, **Christine Mayworm**.

Christine is moving to Canada from Chicago. Having worked in Vancouver in the 1980s for Kiwassa Neighbourhood Services, Christine is familiar with BC. She is happy to be returning to “Beautiful British Columbia” after a long stay in the USA.

Christine is a licensed clinical counselor with immense experience in working with young deaf and hard of hearing children. We look forward to her vision, leadership and direction and are very excited about the opportunities to come.



welcome

Families and community service providers wishing to connect with Chris can reach her at cmayworm@bcfamilyhearing.com or by calling our office.

Welcome Christine!



Kindergarten Transition Workbook

This is a stressful time of the year for parents as they are making tough decisions about their hard of hearing, deaf or cochlear implant child graduating from preschool and moving on to Kindergarten. A very important milestone for families!

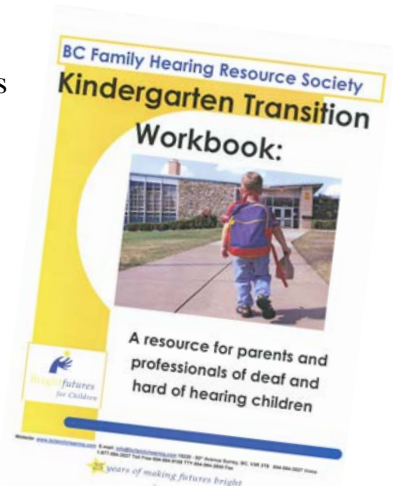
For school boards and teachers, this is the time of year when they are beginning to wonder what their classes are going to look like in the fall, so planning for September has already begun.

The *BC Family Hearing Resource Society Kindergarten Transition Workbook* was developed by our staff as we transition many children from their preschool programs to their neighbourhood Kindergarten programs around the province. We prepared guidelines that would lead them and their communities through the process of transitioning to Kindergarten in an easy-to-read format.

The handbook is a compilation of many pieces of work done over the years. We have shared it with communities and professionals with positive feedback.

Anyone can access the document by clicking on the link below

http://www.bcfamilyhearing.com/pdfs/Kindergarten_transition_workbook.pdf or we can send you a copy in the mail, just contact our centre!



25 Years of Making A Difference

In Appreciation of our Supporters

Since our last issue, the following individuals and organizations have continued to make a difference in the lives of our children and their families by generously donating to our centre either monetarily or through goods and services.



Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children

\$120,000 annually!



Elks

- Kelowna
- Parksville-Qualicum
- Prince George
- Revelstoke
- Salmon Arm
- Vancouver
- Westside
- White Rock

Royal Purple

- Ashcroft
- Campbell River
- Fort Nelson
- Kelowna
- Salmon Arm
- Vancouver
- Vernon

Individuals & Organizations

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Baker • D. Belado • Valmore & Catherine Berry • Sandra & Wayne Burton • Caldor Foundation • Alanna Chupa • Steve Clark • Kevin & Renata Clements • Cathy & Alec Cruickshank • Hugh Curtis • Jessie Ellis • Bruce & Judy Finley • Hugo & Erica Fuenekes • Gary & Barb Gee • Dennis Gee • Google Matching Gift Program • Kristofer & Jasmina Hansen • Grant & Gudrun Hiemstra • Ho Family • Kim Houlihan • James & Sally Hurst | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivana Kranjec • Susan Lane • Dan & Danielle McGowan • Mallinson Family • Christine Mayworm • Bob & Lynne Moore • Paul & Linda Nolan • Open Purse Foundation • Manpreet & Kuldeep Parhar • Gladys Pelkey-Currie • Henry & Rose Pierce • Ellen Peterson • Peterson Family • Anne Prymak • Queen Alexandra Centre • Eleanor Scott • Andrea Sharpe • RG & Ann Swain • Taylor Family • United Way – Vancouver Airport • A Zimmerman |
|---|--|--|

25 Years of Making A Difference

Annual General Meeting 2008

BC Family Hearing Resource Society hosted their annual general meeting on November 26, 2008. Over 50 people attended the AGM to hear of the agency’s progress, to meet our new Executive Director – Christine Mayworm and to highlight our donor recognition program with our annual rooftop display.



Roof Top Display



Each year we invite stakeholders to our annual meeting as a way of updating them on our work, to meet other families (free childcare provided) and to recognize our generous volunteers and donors. The annual report was approved and is available to anyone through our website or by contacting the centre. The financial audited statements are presented and reviewed by our auditors and are also available upon request.

The annual report highlights our confirmation of values, our mission and our achievements through services to families, training and research. We are pleased to announce our formal affiliation with the University of British Columbia Faculty of Education.

Our Board of Directors is elected each year at this meeting. We encourage people to become involved in the work of our centre through volunteering, membership and donations. Thank you for your generous support. If you are interested in learning more about our work or becoming involved, please do not hesitate to contact Ellen Peterson, Business & Resource Development Manager at the centre.



Walking for Bright Futures – Save this Date
 It’s that time again! Lace up your walking/running shoes and join us
May 24 2009
Elks and Royal Purple Annual Walk-a-thon.
 The walk site is **Campbell Valley Regional Park** once again.
 Watch for more details coming soon.

Reaching Out to Community Service Providers (CSPs)

My Turn to Learn in Beijing, China!

Dyan Spear, BCFHRC Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, had the opportunity to travel to China in the fall. Before leaving, Dyan contacted Amy Ho, a past parent at the BCFHRC who was instrumental in translating our book *My Turn to Learn* into Chinese, for links to programs servicing deaf and hard of hearing children in Beijing.

Amy was able to connect Dyan to the China Rehabilitation Centre for Deaf Children (CRCDC). Upon arrival, Dyan contacted the centre excited to follow up on their interest in national and international cooperation. The centre immediately set up an appointment and with two Chinese translations of *My Turn to Learn* in hand, Dyan jumped into a taxi and set off for her adventure.

After what seemed a long, long time, Dyan was concerned that her taxi driver really didn't know where he was going, but her fears were soon put to rest as she was greeted by the waves of two teachers waiting for her in front of their building. With the ease of English, the staff was proud to take her on tour of the centre and share dreams and plans of their new building. Their current site was built in 1983. As the CRCDC website states, "it is an integrated national centre for hearing diagnosis, hearing aid fitting, hearing and speech rehabilitation, personnel training and scientific research with qualified faculty of various professions covering medical care, special education, scientific research and management."

The centre also provides program supports for children with cochlear implants. Dyan observed that all children present had Med-El® cochlear implants and the staff introduced her to Chinese resources that Med-El® produced for their auditory training. Dyan was proud to give the centre two copies of *My Turn to Learn* in the spirit of international cooperation. The staff was so pleased to receive these gifts for their parents and staff. and were very interested in the work we do with families

at the BCFHRC. When they saw that it was in traditional Chinese they were thrilled! Thanks again to Amy and Ben Ho in making this gift possible to share with our Chinese friends. Now that's outreach in action!



Speech Sound Disorders: The Basics and Beyond with Carolyn Bowen

As part of ongoing Professional Development, BCFHRC Speech-Language Pathologists Tamara Pelletier and Noreen Simmons attended the above workshop organized by the Surrey School District. The speaker was Carolyn Bowen, a world renowned researcher and clinician in the areas of developmental phonology and apraxia. An interesting point was made about recasting: we often encourage parents to recast (or repeat what their child has said, but with the correct speech sounds or word endings). The speaker suggested that in addition to recasting spontaneously throughout the day, parents should aim to target a specific word or sound in a word 3-5 minutes per day, getting 12-18 recasts in per minute during that concentrated time.

Speech-Language Pathologists working with our staff are encouraged to contact their BCFHRC consultant if they would like more information about the extensive resources that were provided at the workshop (including assessment and treatment ideas and materials).



Reaching Out to Community Service Providers (CSPs)

Partnerships in Supporting Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Fraser Valley Child Development Centre - Mission

BCFHRC staff members Carolyn Trengrove, Audiologist/Auditory Verbal Therapy Intern and Dyan Spear, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing met with 15 participants in November, 2008 to present a two day training program for professionals working with deaf and hard of hearing children and their families. The participants were comprised of a group of Early Childhood Educators, Speech and Language Therapists and Infant Development Consultants working in the Fraser Valley. The pilot for the newly revised Partnerships program incorporated new equipment, research, handouts and other up-to-date and relevant resources as stated in the training manual;

“This training package explores ways of supporting families who have a deaf or hard of hearing child and suggests ways to adapt the child care environment and modify teaching strategies to facilitate communication in a child care setting where there are deaf or hard of hearing children. The course looks at different points of view concerning inclusion and various levels and kinds of inclusion as well as benefits and drawbacks to including children who are deaf or hard of hearing. This training package discusses how the ear works and the causes and degrees of hearing loss, as well as the use of equipment that enhances hearing. It also examines ways to facilitate conversations among deaf and hard of hearing children in the child care setting.”

Quotes from participants:

“Going through [the audiograms] was great to get a better understanding of how each child can be so different”

“I enjoyed having hands-on experience with cochlear implants”

“The group work regarding lip-reading was very challenging; helped me understand how difficult it is”

“The information on grieving was very helpful”



Partnerships Participants at the Mission Fraser Valley CDC

“I enjoyed reading the story and then thinking about how the daycare centre would impact a child with hearing impairment”

“Experiential learning was excellent; very good presenters—very knowledgeable; doing activities was very good”

“The combination of lecture, group activities and videos was fabulous for full understanding”

Our next scheduled session is on March 5th and 6th at the Centre for Ability in Vancouver.

Contact our office if you wish to have a Partnerships training workshop in your community!
For more information on other Partnerships workshops please check out the provincial website at <http://partnershipsproject.bc.ca/>

On the Fly...Hints for Home

5 Minute Literacy Learning Activity

by Kristyn Payne
Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Did you know that kids are fascinated by calendars? They see Mommy and Daddy and teachers using them all the time!



You can help your child develop literacy skills by noting things that are happening with your family on your calendar: draw them directly on, use sticky notes, clipart or stickers. Let your children see you do this and use this opportunity to model language about time: *today, tomorrow, yesterday, in one week, next month* etc. After posting a particularly exciting event like a birthday party, you can “count how many more sleeps” till it happens”.

Below are examples of images you may want to use. You can find clip art online at Google Images and in Word by clicking Insert – clip art.



You and Your Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child

Call for Submissions

We would like to invite you to submit to the newsletter any drawings, writing and any creative endeavours that your children have done!

Please include any comments about how you incorporated listening and language into the activity or any quotes from your children themselves about the artwork.

This edition's samples come from Aditi Pooni and Mikyla O'Rourke who currently attend our PALS group and Noor Rizwan, a former client of the centre who is now in Grade One!



Aditi Pooni



Mikyla O'Rourke



Noor Rizwan

You and Your Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child

So, What is ‘Auditory-Verbal Therapy’ Anyway?

Auditory Verbal Therapy (AVT) is just one method of helping children who have hearing loss develop their listening skills, which can lead to better spoken language. Its origins come from key professionals in the field of oral deaf education from the past several decades, notably, Helen Beebe, Doreen Pollack and Daniel Ling. These professionals are confident in the approach which has strong foundations in neuroscience and language development. AVT is perhaps best explained by its ten guiding principles which can be found on the AG Bell Academy website at www.agbellacademy.com. The main focus of AVT is to work with parents of deaf and hard of hearing children to focus on using the child’s residual hearing in natural and everyday situations where listening is used for learning. To date there are 475 Listening and Spoken Language Specialists in AVT or Education worldwide!

There has been controversy in the field of deaf education around the perceived limiting of children to only one mode of communication. The following quote may provide some clarification on this point,

“The Auditory-Verbal approach should not be seen as negating the role of visual and tactile input. However, tactile or visual strategies are used only after the child is given an opportunity to process the sound through hearing. After the use of visual or tactile input, the sound is put back into hearing” (Oliver, 2001). *Moreover, it is the A-V therapist’s obligation to consider a change in service option if the child is not making progress.*

One may ask, “Why cover your mouth when visual cues are so important?” The commonly misunderstood “hand cue technique” is used merely to encourage the child to listen before looking for information. All children use a variety of sensory input to understand the world around them. Children who are deaf and hard of hearing are no different and tend to rely on visual cues to make up for the auditory cues they are missing. For example, the difference between the “ooo” and the “ahhh” sound can be easily determined by watching the shape of the mouth. But if we truly want to know if a child is hearing the difference, the shape of the mouth must be hidden. The cochlear implant is giving more deaf children *access* to these sounds, but the children must be *trained to understand* the difference. It is our job to assess exactly what children are hearing and to help them to discriminate more sounds.

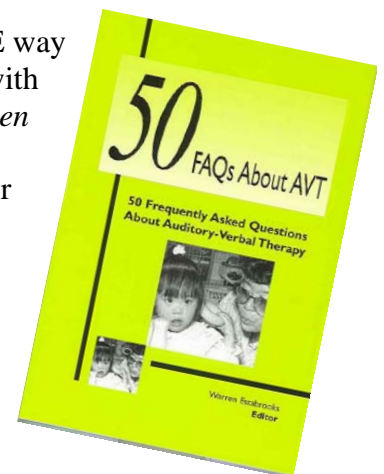
As a centre specializing in providing service to young children with hearing loss and their families, the BCFHRC strives to stay up to date with technologies as well as research on the best strategies for facilitating language development. Understanding that there is no ONE way to do this, we are very happy to now be able to provide AVT services at the centre with our newest therapist, Carolyn Trengrove. She will be writing the *Listening and Spoken Language Specialist AV Certification* exam this year.

You’re invited to learn more about AVT by looking for the following titles in our library;

- Choices in Deafness
- Auditory-Verbal Therapy for Parents and Professionals
- 50 Frequently Asked Questions about Auditory Verbal Therapy

Please feel free to discuss this communication option with your therapist. It may not be the approach that works for all children but it certainly has been beneficial for many.

Reference Oliver, J. . (2001). Can auditory-verbal services be used in conjunction with other approaches? In W. Estabrooks, *50 Frequently Asked Questions About Auditory-Verbal Therapy* (pp. 42-45). Toronto: Learning to Listen Foundation.



Bits & Pieces

You're Invited!



- What:** **Relative's Night**
An intimate information session for relatives about hearing loss and how it impacts the children in their lives
- Who:** Uncles, Aunties, Grandmas and Grandpas (sorry no Moms or Dads)
- When:** April 22nd 6:30pm-8:30pm
- Why:** To have an opportunity to visit our centre
To meet other relatives of children who have hearing loss
To learn more about hearing loss and hearing equipment
To find out how you can support the family

Please register by calling the centre at 604-584-2827 or by emailing:
info@bcfamilyhearing.com (interpreters available by request)

WANTED

Dads, Step-Dads, Boyfriends, Uncles, Grandfathers ...
....A night to unleash your inner handyman!

What: Project Night

When: May 12th 2009 7pm

Where: BC Family Hearing Resource Centre



We'll provide the wood, nails and pizza- you'll bring your tools and enthusiasm!

(P.S. This is a fun night- All levels of ability welcome...i.e. don't worry if you don't know which way up to hold a hammer!)

RSVP: Zara or Nicola 604 584 2827

or email: info@bcfamilyhearing.com

Bits & Pieces

Virtual Hearing Resource Centre Update



In our fall 2008 Newsletter we mentioned that steps were being taken to provide group based sign language and other sessions via our Virtual Hearing Resource Centre. It is our pleasure to announce that this service is now available and ready to be explored! For further information contact Ivana (ikranjec@bcfamilyhearing.com) or Suzie (sfairweather@bcfamilyhearing.com).

This Way to Kindergarten...BCFHRC Peer Group Program



Will your child be transitioning in to Kindergarten in September 2009? Then the PEER group just may be for you and your family!

PEER is a group designed for hard of hearing preschoolers and their parents. The focus of this group is on 'ACCESS'. Children with hearing loss often have difficulty *accessing* information in their environment. **PEER** group focuses on teaching children specific skills and strategies in a classroom setting so they can begin advocating for themselves when finding it difficult to hear or understand what is going on. Many of the children who attend this group already attend community preschools and may never have met another child, teenager or adult with an assistive listening device. **PEER** group is a fun place where kids who have hearing aids, cochlear implants, BAHAs and FM systems can meet other kids who have the same devices and start fostering independence with their own auditory equipment.

PEER is for parents too! While the children are hard at 'work' playing and learning, parents are learning as well. **PEER** group offers parents the opportunity to learn about and understand the challenges that hard of hearing children typically face in school settings and how to advocate effectively for supports their child may need in Kindergarten.

PEER group will be running at the **BCFHRC** for **1 full week** from **10:00am to 3:00pm** on **April 27 to May 1st, 2009**. This program is for local and outreach families. Please ask your early interventionist more about this program and whether it may be appropriate for you and your child. Keep your eye on our website and your mailbox for more information to come www.bcfamilyhearing.com

Mingle & Play Summer Program



Although snow is still on the ground, we'd like to remind all families receiving services from the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre about the Mingle & Play Program. The date has been set, **August 4th to 7th 2009 from 9:30am to 1:00pm**. Due to the success of the first session last summer, we wanted families to have ample time to arrange to attend this year. There is no charge but parent participation is required. Lunches are included. You can attend for one or all 4 days. Each day provides a variety of activities in addition to a chance for parents meet other families and children with hearing loss. More details will follow in the coming months.



Calendar

February

- 14 Happy Valentine's Day ♥
- 24-26 BC Early Hearing Program Provincial Intervention Conference

March

- 5 & 6 Partnerships Training at the Centre for Ability-Vancouver

April

- 10 Good Friday Holiday
- 13 Easter Monday Holiday
- 22 Relative's Night
- 27 - May 1 BCFHRS PEER Group Program for children entering Kindergarten in September 2009
- 29 - May 2 Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists annual conference - London ON

May

- 12 Project Night
- 18 Victoria Day Holiday
- 24 Elks & Royal Purple Walk-a-thon

Our Outreach Consultant's visits to Communities Throughout BC

- December** Nicola Swain, Courtenay/Comox & Qualicum
Tamara Pelletier, Campbell River
Zara Newnham, Kamloops
- January** Kristyn Payne, Fort St. John
Nicola Swain, Duncan
Dyan Spear & Cathy Luther (Chow), Kelowna
Judy Chrastina, Bella Coola & Williams Lake
- February** Dyan Spear & Cathy Luther (Chow), Kelowna

Newsletter - Mail, On-Line or Email?

Would you prefer to receive our newsletter emailed to you? Are you aware that our newsletters are posted on our website? In our efforts to "Go Green" we would like to offer the electronic distribution option to those interested.

To receive your newsletter this way, simply email info@bcfamilyhearing.com with the email address you would like the newsletter sent to AND the current name and address it is being sent to by mail in order to have your name removed from the list.



Reaching Out

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BC Family Hearing
Resource Centre
15220 - 92nd Avenue
Surrey, BC V3R 2T8
Toll Free: 1-877-584-2827
Phone (604)584-2827(voice),
(604)584-9108 (tty), (604)584-2800
(fax)

Executive Director: Christine
Mayworm
Editors: Cindy Adams & Carolyn
Trengrave

We are a family-centered early intervention Provincial Resource Program committed to individual communication choices. We provide support and resources throughout BC to deaf and hard of hearing children, their families and Community Service Providers.

The purpose of the Reaching Out Newsletter is to provide information and support to our readers.

Articles and ideas are welcome! The opinions expressed therefore are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Board of Directors, or the staff. We reserve the right to edit contributions for brevity and clarity.

There is no fee for the Reaching Out newsletter, however, donations are gratefully accepted.

Sign Language from the Canadian Dictionary of ASL, Carol Sue Bailey & Kathy Dolby, Editors. Used with Permission from the University of Alberta Press.