

REACHING OUT

A Newsletter from the BC FAMILY HEARING RESOURCE CENTRE
for families with deaf and hard of hearing children, service
providers, and others involved with hearing loss.



Winter 2012

FAMILY FEATURE

The Cable Family- “Not possible to do too much”

The Cable Family began receiving services from BCFRHC about one year ago when their baby daughter, Lily, was diagnosed with a hearing loss. Parents Lisa and Aron share their experience and thoughts on adapting their lives to accommodate a child with a hearing loss.



The Cables (l to r) Aron, Lily, Ryder & Lisa visit Santa

As any parent knows, when your children enter the world, your only wish for them is to be happy and healthy. When you find out that there is something “wrong” with one of your children, whatever it may be, it can only be described as devastating. Our daughter, Lily Marie, was diagnosed as hard of hearing when she was just 2 months old. Lily is now 15 months old and the biggest lesson that we have learned over the last year is that there is absolutely nothing “wrong” with her.

At first, the thought of having a tiny baby with hearing aids was very frightening. Thoughts of them getting lost, swallowed or broken kept us awake at night. But the bigger fear was if Lily

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Mark your calendar
**Elks &
Royal Purple
Annual
Walkathon**
**Sunday, May 27
2012**
See details on page 9



would be able to hear and speak and generally function in mainstream society. Everyone else in our family is hearing and we wanted her to be able to participate with us in everything that we do.

Over the past year, those things that kept us up at night have happened. Lily went through phases where she ate her hearing aids or just kept taking them out and chucking them across the room. We have had many repairs done and in fact have replaced both hearing aids because of issues with them.

But those aren't the things that stand out as we reflect on the past year. What we do think of is how far Lily has come and what a bright and funny little girl she is turning into.

She uses many signs now, "talks" a lot (with a few real words even) and is very attentive and



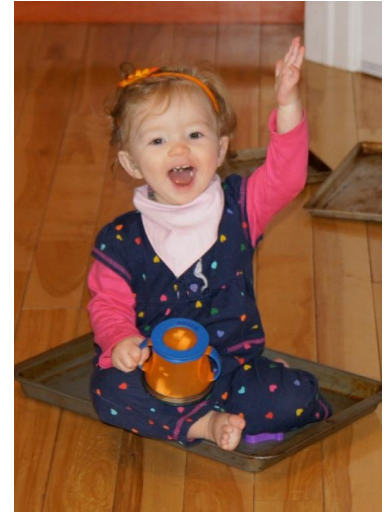
listens well. She has a big brother that she adores and tries to emulate at every turn; often leading to trouble!

These successes haven't happened by chance. Since the very first moment when we

were contacted by Lori Bell at the BC Early Hearing Program, we have participated in every possible program that we could to help Lily on this journey. From language therapy to Baby Group to meeting other deaf and hard of hearing families we have done it all! We have also spent lots of time at home and in our community exposing Lily to as much language and sound as possible. I guess our feeling is that it's possible to do too little, but not possible to do too much when it comes to supporting our daughter.

The bottom line is that Lily is a wonderful child who is growing up like any other little girl and she just happens to also have hearing loss.

It doesn't define her as a person and it doesn't define us as a family. It has certainly been a journey over the past year but one that we wouldn't trade for the world. It has made us all the more appreciative for both of our amazing children and excited for what their futures hold.



FIVE MINUTE LISTENING ACTIVITY

I Spy



I'm a huge fan of activities that are free or can be purchased at a dollar store! One of my favourite games to play is "I Spy". This can be done anywhere! First you find an object in the room and say: "I spy with my little eye something that is (give a hint about what the object is)". Have your child see if they can guess the object based on the clues. There are many ways to describe the object- for instance:

by Catherine Moore, TDHH



- ☞ Description (colour, size, texture)- I spy something that is large/rough/has 4 legs, etc
- ☞ Sounds- I spy something that is quiet/cries/goes *vroom*, etc
- ☞ Prepositions- I spy something that is **under** the tree/**next to** the book shelf/**in** the corner, etc
- ☞ Verbs/Action words- I spy something that can *run/gallop/stays still*, etc
- ☞ Function- I spy something that keeps things frozen/something that is used to put nails in a wall, etc

Make sure to take turns and switch roles so your child has an opportunity to practice using his/her language to describe an object. Have fun!

YOU AND YOUR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILD

Preschool – When two is better than one

Choosing a preschool experience for your child is a process that most families go through at some point. It seems that there are as many different philosophies as there are children, so figuring out what's best for your child can be a daunting task.



As my husband Chris and I discussed the ins and outs of preschool choices, we decided that we weren't going to send our son, David, to preschool until he was 4, at which point we would look for a casual, play-centered, non-academic program.

Chris and I are both teachers, so we weren't worried about the academic side of preschool; whatever David needed to learn before Kindergarten he was bound to learn at home with us guiding him along. I am also lucky enough to work from home with a flexible schedule, so I am able to take David wherever he needs to go during the day.

This plan was met with some raised eyebrows from friends with children David's age who were on waiting lists for preschools for their children to enter the moment they turned 3, or even younger. Apparently, they figured that the right preschool program can skyrocket your child to the head of the class, and they were surprised that we weren't going to give David this leg up. Regardless of outside criticism, we were happy with our decision. That is, until David was diagnosed with mild-moderate hearing loss just after his third birthday. At that point, all of our plans changed.

Because of his hearing loss, David's speech was difficult to understand, which made his interactions with his peers more and more difficult. Although I continued to take him to community programs such as soccer, ballet, art, and group playtimes, he spent less and less time interacting with his peers and more and more time playing by himself.

Working with the staff at BCFHRC, we finally decided that David would join the PALS preschool group twice a week beginning last April. What a difference it made! The teachers who run the PALS program—Judy and Sharon—have decades of experience working with deaf and hard-of-hearing children, and understand the unique challenges these children face as they prepare to enter the world of school. They use a variety of strategies—including role playing, demonstration, direct teaching, and modeling—to help the kids understand how to interact with their peers. They introduce vocabulary that children need to understand in order to be successful in the school environment, and they ensure that each child has access to all of the information being offered. In PALS, the children learn about everything from how

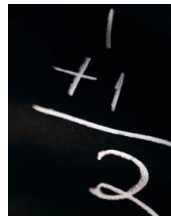
to express their emotions to how to play hide and seek—things that hearing children often learn from each other without intervention. It's a big time commitment to take David to PALS (a parent participation program), but every minute of it is well spent...so much so that this year we chose to increase David's attendance from two days a week to three!

Before hearing loss and PALS, we had chosen a preschool program and registered David to begin this past fall, when he would be four. Once we started attending PALS and saw what a great program it was for David, we had to decide whether or not to keep him enrolled in the community preschool in addition to the PALS program. We had signed David up for three afternoons a week, which meant that he would be going to school every day, sometimes twice a day! This seemed like a lot for our little 4-year-old, so it was a tough decision to keep him in both programs, but we're so glad we did.

David's other preschool is different from the PALS program, and offers David a complementary experience. In this program, children are given a lot of freedom to choose activities. There is a variety of choices available, such as literacy, art, building blocks, daily life skills, and pretend play. Children have time to work by themselves, with their peers, and with the instructors. It is a 3-hour drop-off program, so David is learning to be independent: initiating interactions with his peers and participating in games and activities with them, solving his own problems or asking for help when he needs it, advocating for himself when his hearing aids aren't working (OK, so he's still working on this one!), and trusting that when Chris or I drop him off, we're going to come back for him. These are the skills that he's learning in PALS, and he gets a chance to practice them on his own at his other preschool. Luckily, the class size is very small and the instructors are ready to guide David whenever he needs it, so it's a safe environment for him to explore his independence. Having this experience will prepare him for Kindergarten, where he will have to put all of these skills into practice.

It's interesting how plans change. At each crossroads, we just have to make the best decision we can at the time. Did I ever expect to be sending my child to two different preschool programs? No, but I do see the value in each program. I see how well they work together, and I'm glad we made the decisions we did. I'm sure that these programs, together, will help ease David's transition into Kindergarten!

by Jennifer Magnusson



REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Outreach Travel to Bella Coola – Accepting the Unexpected



Emily & Judy in their 'Flood Pants'

Flooding and a state of emergency were only part of the adventure when Judy Chrastina and Emily Black went to Bella Coola for Outreach in September 2011. It was Emily's first outreach trip, and a great lesson in adaptability!

Heading out on September 22nd, stormy weather meant the 'daring duo' had to fly into Anahim Lake, roughly 130 kilometres east of Bella Coola, and then get driven to Bella Coola by school bus.

Passengers on the bus took turns wiping the windows free of mud so that everyone could

see the gorgeous but fogged-in valley below. The unexpected sightseeing included travelling along the "Freedom Highway" stretch famously built by the locals in 1952 when the provincial government refused to provide funding for Bella Coola's first road into the community.

When they finally arrived in town four hours late, they'd missed several of their appointments. With the help of the extraordinary local community health nurse Carolyn DiGuistini, they still managed to meet up with the families and professionals they had come to see. Emily had been working with 2-year old Challaine Dettling-Morton and her family for 6 months while in Vancouver awaiting a kidney transplant. Challaine received a kidney from her dad in June 2011 and the resilient trooper was well enough to move home to Bella Coola in September. Challaine was also diagnosed with a mild to severe sensorineural hearing loss bilaterally at the age of 20 months. The team got to know each other and set out a plan for the next six months with Challaine's parents, Rhonda and Darren in the lead. Challaine slept for most of the visit with her team but was back to her cheery self in time to blow kisses to everyone on the way out.

Judy has been working with the Schooner family and she and Emily fit in an early evening visit



Rhonda & Darren with Challaine (seated) with their team behind them: Emily Black, SLP; Carolyn DiGuistini, CHN; Glynnis O'Neill, SLP; Wanda Edgar, SCD and Cheyenne Tweedie, SCD

the same day. Nathaniel Schooner, now four years old, was the first Bella Coola baby to be identified with hearing loss through newborn hearing screening. With early intervention and a dedicated family, Nathaniel is doing very well and is more than keeping up with his peers in preschool. Nathaniel was also proud to show off his new baby sister to his visitors.

The next morning, as the wind started to blow and the rain pelted down, Judy and Emily went to drop off materials at a local school and provide a short in-service. The weather had other plans in mind and the school was closed due to extreme flooding in the area. The airport also closed due to flooding, which meant that Judy and Emily were stuck in Bella Coola for an unknown amount of time! Again, Carolyn DiGuistini saved the day and took them to her house so they could be closer to the airport if it opened again. The town of Bella Coola declared a state of emergency, hoping that this year's floods would at least be less severe than last year's "Great Flood of 2010." Judy and Emily- now cut off from internet, phone and most of the town because of flooding, could do nothing but help prepare for the worst. Glynnis O'Neill, a Speech-Language Pathologist who works in the region, helped out too. Judy even helped feed the family's turkeys! Once the flooding started to subside, Judy and Emily were able to see the extent of the damage by borrowing rain gear and "flood pants!"

Finally, two days later than expected, they were bussed back to Anahim Lake and flew to Vancouver. Emily learned to pack for any possibility and expect the unexpected on her first BC Family outreach trip!



REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

A Trip to the Capital

Last year BCFHRC received an invitation from the BC Association of Speech Pathologists and Audiologists (BCASLPA) to present at their annual conference in Victoria on working with deaf and hard of hearing children in developing auditory skills. We were thrilled for such an invitation and gratefully accepted this opportunity to share our experience with clinicians province-wide. Speech Language Pathologist, Charmaine Francis, and Auditory-Verbal Therapist, Carolyn Hawrish, from our Centre, provided a synopsis of the stages of learning how to listen and encouraged participants in developing activities to facilitate auditory skills development. Attendees work in a variety of settings including schools, health centres and private practice with children of all ages. Many shared that they wanted ideas of how to bring theory to life and integrate an “aural perspective” with their existing practice. Participants engaged with one another and challenged the presenters’ skills in quick-thinking to come up with examples and to answer thought-provoking questions. It was a pleasure to be involved with the conference which also featured topics such as, “Executive Functioning” and “The Social Academic Connection.” It was also a chance to join with fellow colleagues and to see what research on communication disorders is taking place around the province. Thank you to our host, Alys Wardlaw and the Conference Planning Committee for helping us to be involved. For more information on the conference and upcoming BCASLPA events please visit www.bcaslpa.bc.ca



Running concurrent to the BCASLPA conference program was the 14th Annual Conference and Exhibition for the Canadian Academy of Audiology (CAA). What an amazing opportunity for BCFHRC to liaise with audiology professionals from all over the country. BC Family had a table within the Exhibition Hall and we were able to showcase the services we offer throughout BC. Also in the exhibit hall were a number of different hearing aid and cochlear implant companies showing off their latest listening device products and support materials. We had the opportunity to connect with many companies and view their latest advancements in the field. We were pleased to raffle off a copy of our publication, “My Turn to Learn 2nd Edition”, answer questions and share with diagnosticians what occurs behind the scenes with our early intervention services for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. For more information on CAA please see their website at www.canadianaudiology.ca

Reference and Regulate

In November, Judy Chrastina, TDHH, and Alex Lay, SLP, along with two speech pathologists from the Surrey Early Speech and Language Program, had the chance to attend an intervention workshop called Reference and Regulate.

Reference and Regulate is a therapy program for children with autism developed by Loyst and Associates Autism Services Inc. David Loyst is a Lower Mainland behaviour consultant who has training and work experience as a speech-language pathologist in the field for over 20 years.

The Reference and Regulate program focuses on improving eye contact, referencing and joint attention in children with autism. Children are taught that they can get valuable information by looking at people and following other people’s point or gaze. Once they achieve these skills, they are able to learn from their social partners, everyday interactions, and experiences.

The other focus of the program is on regulation. Regulation is a person’s ability to maintain appropriate focus and attention. Initially, intervention provides activities and environments that are regulating for the child, and eventually these adaptations are removed as the child develops self regulation. By targeting both referencing and self-regulation skills, the program aims to improve two of the main difficulties of children with autism, and help them become more reciprocal participants and learners.

The Reference and Regulate program is available to families in the Burnaby, Richmond, and Vancouver areas. In addition, families in the Fraser Valley (Surrey, Langley, Abbotsford, Mission and Chilliwack) can now access R&R services. For more information visit: www.randrforautism.com.



REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Partnerships in Supporting Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

In November 2011, BCFHRC staff members Carolyn Hawrish, Auditory Verbal Therapist and Charmaine Francis, Speech-Language Pathologist presented a two and a half 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-Language Pathologists, Supported Child Development and Infant Development Consultants from all over the province, including Bella Coola and 100 Mile House. For the first time, we had a group participate via webcam! A special thanks to the group from Vancouver Island (lovingly dubbed the “Courtney Crew”).



Here is just some of what the participants learned:

- types/causes of hearing loss
- how to read an audiogram
- hearing loss simulation
- opportunities to troubleshoot hearing aids, cochlear implants and FM systems
- community resources in BC for families
- of children who have hearing loss
- the importance of informed choice
- effects of hearing loss on development
- inclusion of the child with hearing loss
- how to adapt the home or preschool environment to make it more accessible to a child with hearing loss

Quotes from participants:

“The facilitators are great – very knowledgeable. Lots of very useful information. I really enjoyed it!”

“The simulation videos were really helpful.”

“Everything was great. I can see applications for a variety of children...”

“Good combination – time for answering specific questions makes it most relevant and makes the different between reading from a book and live teaching.”

Contact the Centre 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/>



OVER 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

Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children \$84,000 annually!

Elks

- Burnaby
- Cloverdale
- Merritt
- Oliver

- Parksville/
Qualicum
- Salmon Arm
- Trail
- Westside

Royal Purple

- Aldergrove
- Ashcroft
- Fort Nelson
- Kelowna

- Mission City
- North Surrey
- Osoyoos
- Salmon Arm
- Terrace

Elks & Royal Purple Lodges- Campbell's Soup Label Program

Individuals & Organizations

- Accurate Real Time Reporting
- Mariam & Daniel Antoni
- Peter & Karen Armitage
- Dominic Brecher
- Burns Family
- Caldor Foundation
- Cathy & Alec Cruickshank
- Dr. R.G. Swain
- Hugh Curtis
- Jerri Fisher
- Joan Ford
Charitable Society
- Mona Gilbert
- Diedre Gill
- Tanya Grange
- Ho Family
- James & Sally Hurst
- Liliane Lambert



- Lisa Moody
- Brenda Moore
- Rick Moore
- Bob & Lynn Moore
- Obviar Family
- Courtney & Eric Olsen
- Peterson Family
- Henry & Rose Pierce
- Noreen Simmons
- St. Pius X Elementary School
- Ryan & Kerri Turner
- United Commercial Travelers
- United Way of the Lower Mainland
 - London Drugs-Coquitlam Centre
 - Vancouver Airport Authority
- United Way of the Fraser Valley
- Oxana Zinkevych



OVER 25 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Annual General Meeting 2011

It is my pleasure to report that we had an exciting and well attended annual general meeting that was held on November 23rd, 2011. We have had a tremendous year despite the global economic and financial situation. Our greatest satisfaction and pride was in achieving a three year accreditation from CARF. This would not have been possible without the dedicated and consistent hard work of all staff. Over the past year, all aspects of operations – programs and services, finances and fundraising, staffing, and public relations were reviewed with strategic focus on future goals. We at BCFHRS will continue to push forward with our mission and values to support children and their families with deafness, hearing loss, and communication challenges.

We are proud of the number of children we served in the past year. The total number of clients who received services: BCFHRC – 257 (163 -local clients; 94 - Outreach clients) and SESLP: Over 400. The highlight for the year comes from our outcomes measures, wherein more than 85% of our families and community service providers reported satisfaction on overall quality of services. Nothing is more important to us than being able to tell our families, government funders, corporate and individual donors that our work is exceptional and we continue to strive to improve our services.

We are also glad to report our new initiative - the Deaf Mentor program. Thanks to Variety-The Children's Charity for their support to enable families with hearing loss/deafness to meet with a Deaf/hearing loss Mentor and learn coping and communication strategies that can be used with their children in daily life.

Our research collaboration with UBC - Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology, and Special Education and the Human Early Learning Partnership continues to strengthen as we advance on our investigations on issues encountered in early intervention clientele. Currently, we are conducting a study that investigates transition process of children from early intervention programs into Kindergarten.

The success of our Organization is determined by many that work towards making futures bright! The Organization appreciates any and all funds raised that directly benefit our children. We are thankful for the continued support provided by the Ministry of Children and Family Development, BC Early Hearing Program, the Elks and Royal Purple, Variety-The Children's Charity, and many individual donor contributions. We are indebted to the continued involvement and ongoing support provided by the Elks and Royal Purple Lodges in BC. Since they began the program in 1983, many members of the lodges have been actively involved as Board members, members on sub-committees, and in various fundraising efforts. We continue to rely on their support that is so important to our program and services.

I am grateful to our volunteer Board that comprises many dedicated men and women who contribute their time and talents to accomplish the many goals of the Organization. Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to the dedicated staff at BCFHRC who always go an extra mile to meet the needs of every child and family we serve. I look forward to your continued support in helping us as we work towards building a Centre of Excellence.

Noreen Simmons
Executive Director

BC FAMILY HEARING RESOURCE SOCIETY

Board of Directors 2011-2012

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Laurie Usher

OVER 25 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Elks and Royal Purple Annual Walkathon

The date has been set! The **Elks and Royal Purple Walkathon** is **May 27th**!



Mark your calendars, strap on your walking/ running/ rolling shoes and join us for a fun, family-friendly morning. **Campbell Valley Park** will once again be our host. Watch for more information in the coming months. Let's try to break last years' records for participation and funds raised. We hope to see you on May 27th!



We Need Your Help to Continue to Make Futures Bright for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

If you'd like to get involved with the BC Family Hearing Resource Society, we'd love to hear from you! Perhaps you'd like to help out but you're not sure how. To offset the costs of ongoing maintenance, volunteers are needed for tasks such as fence repair and re-staining.

We are always open to suggestions and ideas. If you'd like to share your thoughts or concerns, please feel free to contact our office at any time. If you are interested in volunteering on the Board of Directors, please contact our Executive Director - Noreen Simmons.

BITS & PIECES

Cochlear Implant Workshop for Professionals: 2012

- When:** March 5th - 7th, 2012, 9am – 4pm
Where: BC Family Hearing Resource Centre
 15220 - 92nd Ave Surrey, BC
Who: Speech-Language Pathologists and Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing
Cost: \$225 for full three-day workshop
 \$150 for March 6 & 7 only (if attended 2010 CI Workshop at BCFHRC) ****fee waived for Community Service Providers seeing BCFHRC CI clients****

This training module is a **three-day workshop** intended for professionals working with children who have cochlear implants. The curriculum consists of lectures, videos, discussions, and hands-on activities.

**For complete details or to register, contact our office - Space is limited
 Registration Deadline Friday, February 24.**

Early Childhood Educator Language & Sign Workshop

- When:** March 6th, 2012, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Where: BC Family Hearing Resource Centre
 15220 - 92nd Ave Surrey, BC
Who: ECEs working with child(ren) with a hearing loss
Cost:

Free!

Learn about

- What a hearing loss is like
- How a hearing aid and FM System can help
- How to handle hearing devices with confidence
- Sign language for everyday activities
- How to make every interaction count

**To register, contact our office
 Registration Deadline Friday, February 17.**

BITS & PIECES

Working with Infants with Hearing Loss Workshop

When: May 16 & 17, 2012 9am – 4pm

Where: BC Family Hearing Resource Centre
15220 - 92nd Ave Surrey, BC

Who: Speech-Language Pathologists and Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Cost: \$150 for full two-day workshop
****fee waived for Community Service Providers seeing BCFHRC clients****

This training module is a **two-day workshop** intended for professionals working with infants with a permanent hearing loss and their families. The workshop consists of lectures, videos, discussion, a panel of parents with babies and hands-on activities.

**For complete details or to register, contact our office - Space is limited
Registration Deadline Friday, March 30.**

Deaf Mentor Program at BCFHRC

Did you know that we have a specially trained Deaf Mentor at BCFHRC? Sharon Neufeld has been an Early Childhood Educator at the Centre for over 20 years. She is profoundly Deaf and is fluent in American Sign Language (ASL). Sharon was selected for her ability to work with families of deaf or hard of hearing children aged birth to 5 years old in our local and outreach communities. In addition to ASL and visual communication skills, Sharon can share the aspect of Deaf Culture and the Deaf Community.

Through webcam, home or centre-based visits, Sharon can support families by teaching visual communication skills, the use of body language, facial expressions and gestures. Sharon can also help parents and extended family members practice techniques for reading stories and playing with children in a natural setting and pace. ASL is taught through both formal lessons and natural interaction. We are proud to have Sharon on the BCFHRC team and are excited to share her many years of deaf education with families. If you are interested in learning more about the Deaf Mentorship Program please enquire with your Individual Therapist to make this connection.

Mingle & Play 2012

The snow is still melting but it's not too early to start thinking about summer! Our popular Mingle & Play program is scheduled for **August 7th - 10th**. All families receiving services from BCFHRC are invited to attend the 4-day, activity-filled program! This annual event is an opportunity for families from across the province to meet and socialize. Families requiring accommodations should consider reserving their spaces at Victory Hill as soon as possible. Contact Cathy Luther, at our Centre to assist you with this. cluther@bcfamilyhearing.com

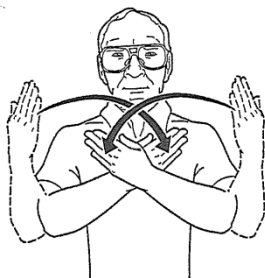
PEER Group Update

Our "PEER" group for parents is off to a wonderful start. Many of our transitioning-to-Kindergarten families are taking part in the monthly evening sessions. We are so happy that families understand the benefit of PEER and learning all they can about what their children need and how they, as parents, can support their children once in school.

So far, we've covered the topics, "Kindergarten Transition & Readiness", "Access in the Classroom" and "My Child's Hearing Loss & Equipment." Workshops are held at our centre for our local families and through Webcam for our outreach families and local families unable to get to the centre. Either way, parents are able to participate, share concerns and ask questions. All families have been issued their "PEER" binder, full of important information to help educate and guide parents, as an advocacy tool, (one can't advocate & share expertise if you don't have the information you need) and for reference. The binder is meant to complement the information that we share with the parents in our monthly sessions.

Topics still to be covered in our evening sessions are: "Social Emotional Development & Child Self Advocacy" & "Parent Advocacy." In April our 3-day PEER finale happens where the soon-to-be Kindergarteners (both local & outreach) come together in the classroom to learn and practice self advocacy and gain more independence with their hearing equipment. While the children are having fun learning in the classroom and developing friendships, their parents will be learning as well. They will have the opportunity to hear from a panel of professionals and a panel of parents and their teens and elementary age children who are deaf and hard of hearing. They will also learn about the supports available to their families as they leave the early intervention years behind. A lot happens in 3-day PEER for families! A reminder to the outreach families planning to attend in April-**If you need accommodations, we need to hear from you.** Please call Cathy Luther, toll-free or email cluther@bcfamilyhearing.com

SEASONAL SIGNS



dark



wind



cold
winter



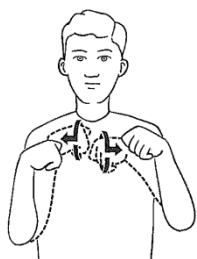
rain



mitt



coat



scarf



toque



snow



together



I love you



valentine



Calendar



Jan

- 1 **Happy New Year!**
 9 **Winter Session Begins**
 23 **Happy Chinese New Year!**
 26 **PEER Evening Workshop Session #4**

Feb

- 14 **Happy Valentine's Day ♥**
 16 **PEER Evening Workshop Session #5**

March

- 5, 6, 7 **Cochlear Implant Workshop**
 6 **Early Childhood Educator Language & Sign Workshop**
 15 **PEER Evening Workshop Session #6**

April

- 6 **Good Friday Holiday**
 9 **Easter Monday Holiday**
 26, 27, 28 **PEER 3 Day Workshop**



May

- 17 & 18 **Working with Infants with Hearing Loss
 Workshop for Professionals**
 21 **Victoria Day Holiday**
 27 **Elks & Royal Purple Walkathon**

Our Recent Outreach Consultants' visits to Communities Throughout BC

- Oct Carolyn Hawrish- Kamloops
 Dyan Spear- Fort St. John, Victoria**
- Nov Judy Chrastina & Charmaine Francis - Prince Rupert
 Dyan Spear- Penticton, Vernon
 Zara Gauthier - Golden**
- Feb Dyan Spear - Victoria, 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 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: Noreen Simmons
 Editors: Cindy Adams & Carolyn
 Hawrish

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.

Reference to any specific commercial products, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the BC Family Hearing Resource Society.

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.

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