

May 4, 2020

Dear BC Family Hearing Resource Centre Families,

First and foremost, we sincerely hope that you and your families are staying safe and healthy. We appreciate that we are living through extraordinary times and staying connected is more important than ever before. As we all adjust to life at home and online, there is important information we wish to share about our plans for the coming year at BC Family Hearing Resource Centre.

As you may be aware, government funding for our program has not increased in several years, in spite of significant increases in the number of families we serve. Back in December, 2019 we informed you of some changes to our group programs, and we have some additional changes to announce for September 2020 through June 2021.

The majority of our weekly and monthly group programs will **NOT** be running in 2020/2021 – this includes APPLE Kids, VALS, Linking through Language, Rhythm & Moves, Partners & Playmates, ASL Tots, Butterfly Hands and Communicate & Connect.

We will continue to offer the following groups, programs and events:

Bouncy Babies (birth to 18 months) - Surrey, Mondays 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

PEER Program (for children entering kindergarten in Sept. 2021) – Parent evening
Sessions (Oct. – Apr.), Education Fair (Oct. 10) and 3-Day Peer Workshop in Spring 2021 (exact dates & times will be shared with eligible families)

Special Events (all families):

Pumpkin Patch – Surrey – Thursday Oct. 29, 2020
Winter Party – Burnaby – Sunday Dec. 13, 2020
Indoor Beach Day – Richmond - Thursday Jan. 28, 2021
Family Fun Day – Surrey – Wednesday Mar. 24, 2021
Family Get Together – Abbotsford - May 15, 2021
Farm Visit – Victoria – June 2021 (exact date TBA)
Mingle & Play – Surrey - Aug 5, 6, 7 2021

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Foundations Workshop:

For Families – a 2-day program designed to strengthen families’ knowledge of their child’s hearing/deafness and how it relates to their language development.

Victoria Nov. 5/6, 2020

Surrey Mar. 5/6, 2021

For Professionals – a 1-day workshop for the professionals working with your child and your family.

Vancouver Oct. 3, 2020

Victoria Nov. 4, 2020

Surrey Mar. 4, 2021

Please note that there will be minimal impact to individual intervention and sign language services. Early interventionists and sign language instructors will continue to meet the needs of each individual child and family.

We are fully aware that groups offer unique opportunities for children to learn language from each other in a social environment and help parents to connect with one another. We hope to offer a greater variety of group programs again in the future.

Our staff are working very hard to provide the most creative and meaningful services for each and every one of our families. We will continue to advocate strongly on behalf of all families with the government and other funding sources and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we do our best.

If you have additional questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dr. Noreen Simmons
Executive Director

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