

REACHING OUT

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE
BC FAMILY HEARING RESOURCE SOCIETY
FOR FAMILIES WITH DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN,
SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND OTHERS INVOLVED WITH
DEAFNESS/HARD OF HEARING ISSUES

September 2021

FAMILY FEATURE

The Johnstone Family is Well Prepared for the Future



The Johnstone Family (l to r) Celeste, Catherine, Alexander & John

Meet the Johnstones from Victoria!

Over the past four years, they have worked with Speech Language Pathologists, Amanda Lemay and Dr. Kat Mumford, from our Victoria Centre. Always eager to participate in programs and services, they are ready for when Celeste starts Kindergarten in September.

Read on as mom, Catherine, shares her family's story.

Our family motto is “always be prepared” (*it is, in fact, part of the Johnstone crest*). In some ways we were completely unprepared to deal with our daughter Celeste’s hearing difference, but in others this approach of being prepared and learning as much as possible has been crucial moving forward.

Celeste was born early after a pregnancy with many complications; we had been told that it was possible she would not be born at all. So when she was delivered and we heard her first cry, we were so relieved that the news she was born without a left ear and with some facial asymmetry somehow did not seem so bad.

Continued on page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 13 Bright Futures

Specialized Childcare opened!

Sept 24 ASL Drop-In Class

Sept 26 Walkathon

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FAMILY FEATURE

The Johnstones continued

What followed was a stressful and intense few months of tests, monitoring, and a crash course in hearing difference for us. Celeste has left side microtia atresia, with a unilateral moderately severe to severe conductive hearing loss – just this designation took us awhile to understand and say out loud!

We were so well supported by service providers, including early childhood interventionists, the BC Family Hearing Resource Society, and our community audiologist that we often felt overwhelmed and a bit guilty for having so many resources at our disposal. We were provided with information not only about microtia, deafness and hearing difference, but also resources for early language learning and advocacy. Without this information, I don't think we would have been nearly as well prepared to deal with the past few years.

We also had support and encouragement from our families, although they live in other provinces. In particular, my father was an exceptional role model, having been born with one hand and believing that a physical difference was never an excuse for not trying (and achieving) something that everyone else could do. Growing up with this attitude, it has been easy to pass it on to Celeste.



At six months, Celeste got her first Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) and our journey with navigating equipment with an infant and then a toddler began. At first, it felt like an accomplishment to have her wear the BAHA for 10 minutes at a time. Now, at 4.5 years old she willingly wears it for 10 hours most days. Over the last four years, we have used bribes, distractions, negotiation, and sometimes have just let her decide to not wear it. But overall it has been a success.

We are particularly happy that Celeste is a confident child who is proud of her hearing aid and so far talks about her “little ear” in a positive way. Her older brother Alexander is incredibly supportive – he compliments her softband choices, helps her pick stickers for her BAHA and tells her that her tiny ear makes her special. We have found lots of little ways to normalize her microtia and equipment: she has a toy BAHA for her dolls, and a couple of stuffies with BAHAs (my favourite is a teddy bear whose ear I removed so it looked more like her), as well as a few books about hearing difference. Mostly, we just talk as a family about the fact that everyone is different and has something that sets them apart – Grandpa has one hand, Alexander has a blond streak, and Celeste has a tiny ear.

Celeste is starting Kindergarten at our neighbourhood school in French Immersion this September. We have

FAMILY FEATURE

The Johnstones continued

participated in the PEER program and found it so useful in preparing us for what is on the horizon. Many of our worries and questions have been addressed, and so far our preparation has paid off with successful connections to, and communication with, the school team. After years of negotiating various childcare and preschool environments with her, making the move to Kindergarten does not seem so daunting.



We will have a (DM) Digital Modulation system in place, and are heading into her classroom this month to help her teacher “sound dampen” the room.

Of course, we are still nervous about getting her set up and making sure she has a positive experience at school, but being prepared has been invaluable.

***Would you like to share your family’s story?
Please advise your interventionist or contact our Centre.***



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Follow us on Twitter: @bcfamilyhearing



Follow us on Instagram: @bcfamilyhearing

YOU AND YOUR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILD

JOIN US FOR

PEER 2021-2022

OUR SPECIALIZED KINDERGARTEN
TRANSITION PROGRAM

10 EVENING ONLINE
PARENT SESSIONS
Oct. 2021 - Apr. 2022

REGISTER NOW!
<https://hfpaa.jotform.com/bcfamilyhearing/PEER2021-2022>

PARENT-PARTICIPATION
CHILDREN'S CLASSROOM
April 2022

FOR FAMILIES ACROSS BC WHOSE DEAF AND HARD OF
HEARING CHILDREN WILL BE STARTING KINDERGARTEN IN
SEPTEMBER 2022



BC FAMILY HEARING
resource ★ society

(E) INFO@BCFAMILYHEARING.COM (T) 604-584-2827

YOU AND YOUR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILD



We are very excited to announce the opening of our bilingual (American Sign Language and English) licensed daycare: **Bright Futures Specialized Childcare**. This daycare facility, running out of our Surrey Centre, opened on Monday, September 13th, 2021.

The daycare will provide both English instruction (spoken and written) and American Sign Language (ASL) using a bilingual, bicultural approach. This unique environment will equip children with the knowledge and ability to learn to communicate in two languages, as well as strengthen language, social and emotional development in a group setting. Children attending our daycare will not need any prior ASL exposure or experience to join this program.

For families considering enrolling their children in our childcare program, below are some initial details:

- The facility is licensed for twenty (20) children aged thirty (30) months through Kindergarten entry. We will not be providing care to children under the age of 30 months or children in Elementary School.
- We operate Mondays through Fridays, 7:30am – 5:30pm.
- There are full time spaces (5 days per week) and part time spaces (2 or 3 days per week).
 - Fees for full time spaces will be \$1,200/month.
 - Fees for part time spaces will be \$900/month for 3 days and \$500/month for 2 days.
 - Childcare subsidies will be accepted.

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE – REGISTER TODAY!

[Registration Checklist](#)

[Registration Form](#)

[Additional Information Form](#)

[Childcare Handbook](#)

If you have specific questions, please email us at daycare@bcfamilyhearing.com.

For more information check out our website brightfutureschildcare.ca

GREAT GRADS ...WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Sasha Doesn't Let Hearing Loss Hinder Her Enthusiasm for Adventure and Learning



Hey, my name is Sasha, I'm 12 years old, in grade six, and I have a moderate to severe hearing loss. It was confirmed soon after I was born that my hearing loss was genetic and related to the gene's mutations from each of my parents. I was an only

child for the longest time, and we were a happy family of three until I got bored and lonely so my parents got me a sibling.

Now, I have a little sister. Her name is Valentina and she just turned four. I love her so much, and she's really fun to play with even when she's being annoying. Valentina has perfect hearing, and my mom has told me she's a carrier of the mutated gene.

I speak two languages, and so does the rest of my family, Russian, and English. We mostly speak Russian at home and with family friends. When I started school, I didn't speak much English, but I learned very quickly. I was excited to go to school, and I enjoyed kindergarten a lot, making a lot of new friends and learning new things. After that, I was always looking forward to going back to school. I don't remember having many challenges in my first year of school. I didn't like talking about my hearing aids much in school or making presentations about my hearing loss to the class, as I didn't like drawing attention to my hearing loss. I



didn't feel any different than others and I would rather talk about other more interesting things. Now, even though I don't mind it, I find it a boring subject as I've explained it to all my friends and teachers too many times.

I was always doing very well in school and was feeling a bit bored because I could do so much more. In grade four, I switched schools as I was accepted into a program called MACC, which is a fulltime school program designed for advanced and motivated learners. It moves at a faster pace, and with more projects and work to do within the regular curriculum. I'm not bored in school anymore and I have lots of new friends. My classmates accepted my hearing loss and didn't really care that I had hearing aids.

During primary school years I did have occasions when kids would ask about my hearing aids in a mean way, and I would be too shy to reply or correct them. Soon, I learned how to deal with and ignore it. I don't meet too many challenges during the school day, possibly because I use

my FM (frequency modulation) on a regular basis, or maybe because I've learned to adapt. I also use my FM at home to listen to music or to watch movies on my laptop or iPad since it can stream the sound right into my ears.

Online school was a bit of a challenge, as I had to adapt to technology, but thankfully, my hearing resource teacher helped me figure out how to set up the FM system to

GREAT GRADS ...WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Sasha continued

my device, meaning I could hear better in zoom meetings similar to the way I listen to music. I don't use any other hearing technologies beside that. My only challenges are with phones, since I had to turn on a speaker to hear and it's not ideal. So, I'm looking forward to the new hearing aids that connect to Bluetooth because they should help.

In my free time I really like to read and draw and will spend a big part of my day doing both. I will regularly come from the library with armfuls of books and read all day. I read in both English and Russian. Besides school and reading, I'm very active and I love sports. I've played a lot of sports, including soccer, tennis, gymnastics, swimming, and ice-skating when I was younger, not to mention art and chess classes. I love skiing with my friends at Grouse Mountain. Recently, I've tried volleyball, I've learned all by myself how to snowboard quite well. I was also in a kayaking club for a couple of summers. Currently, I'm playing basketball in the



Excel club. My favorite are team sports, because I get to interact with my teammates and make new friends. I've also joined sea cadets, which sadly are online for now, but that doesn't make them any less awesome as I've managed to get my boating operator's card. Long story short, I can drive a boat now. I like almost everything that includes me trying something new like rock climbing, ziplining, hiking up in the mountains with friends, and various water sports. Every summer I look forward to camping with my family and friends as it always features some sort of adventure.

As you see, there are really no limits to what I can do despite my hearing loss. However, the few things I regret not being able to do because of it is joining the navy or the coast guard or being a pilot because apparently you need perfect hearing for those professions. I think those are probably the only things I can't do for now.

Really, my hearing loss doesn't define me, nor does it hinder me from doing anything I set my mind to.

Are you a former preschooler who took part in our programs?

Would you like to share your Great Grad story in our newsletter?

If so, please contact our Centre and let us know what you've been up to!

We are always happy to re-connect with you 😊

A Letter from our Executive Director

Dear BCFHRS families and community partners,

I trust you've had a good summer despite the ongoing pandemic and the fires in BC. As the 'new normal' is yet to be, we have made some changes to our programs and services in keeping with Provincial Health Office guidelines:

- In-person sessions have resumed and will be offered at any one of our office locations.
- In-person sessions can also be provided at an outside location such as a park or a playground
- Online sessions, meeting for families and community partners will continue.
- Families can choose to have an in-person session at an office or an online session.
- Outreach travel to all communities across BC have resumed as of September 1st, 2021.

I welcome any feedback or suggestions you have to improve our services as we continue to keep everyone safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Noreen Simmons

Executive Director

OVER 35 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In Appreciation of our Supporters

Since April 15, 2021 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.



Bronze Star Donors (\$500 - \$9,999)

- BC Royal Purple Association
- Chilliwack Elks
- Prince George Royal Purple
- Properties Plus Limited
- Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
- Salmon Arm Royal Purple
- Sydney's Birthday Fundraiser



Thank you to the following donors who have chosen to support us through regular, ongoing gifts:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Armitage, Karen | • Liffen, Emma |
| • Cable, Lisa | • Moore, Rick |
| • Cline, Beebe | • Mulligan, Ken & Jamie |
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| • Kazemir, Teresa | |



Bright Star Donors (\$1 - \$499)

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Bourdon, Ashley | • McKitrick, John & Joanne
(in memory of Warren Barker
& Frank McKitrick) |
| • Chave, H. | • McQuillan, Dan & Ilona |
| • Couling, Wilbur & Yvonne | • Popovich, Joan |
| • Gill, Deidre | • Robinson, Alyssa |
| • Jackson, Karen (in memory of Frank
McKitrick) | • Rosario, Elaine |
| | • Smithers Royal Purple |

Rina Dulku, one of our interventionists' was successful in receiving a grant from Speech-Language & Audiology Canada for a research project entitled:

*Cultural Humility and Cultural Safety in Early Intervention
Services for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing and their Families:
Perspectives from Parents and Practitioners*

We operate in partnership with:

*Ministry of Children and Family Development, Government of BC
BC Early Hearing Program – Provincial Health Services Authority*

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia

Thank you to our founders and long-time supporters: *Elks & Royal Purple lodges in British Columbia and across Canada*

REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITY

ASL Learning at BC Family Hearing

Did you know that BC Family Hearing Resource Society has a number of opportunities available to learn American Sign Language (ASL)? Whether your family is pursuing ASL as a first language for your child, a second language as part of a bilingual approach to language development, or learning signs to support your child's spoken language development, there are a number of opportunities available to you.

Individual services:

BC Family Hearing Resource Society has a number of Sign Language Consultants on staff who have a wealth of experience teaching ASL to parents of young Deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Our consultants not only come alongside parents in their journey to learn sign language, but they also serve as positive Deaf role models/mentors for children. For our Vancouver Island families, we contract out local Sign Language Consultants through the Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre. All of our instructors are available to meet with families on a 1-to-1 basis, and the frequency of these sessions can vary from family to family.

Group classes:

This year BC Family Hearing was proud to announce two new formats for ASL learning:

Monthly Drop-in ASL program:

In Winter 2021, BC Family Hearing offered a new drop-in program: Monthly ASL. This virtual drop-in class was run by two of our Sign Language Consultants, and each session was centered on a theme. The format included vocabulary teaching, a story, and activity ideas for practicing these new skills with their children at home. While this was class was designed for parents, we also had some grandparents and other family members join! Stay tuned for the next offering of Monthly ASL – it will run again from September 2021 to June 2022.

8-week ASL classes:

In Fall 2020, BC Family Hearing started a new partnership with the folks at Queer ASL. Their team offers ASL classes to the wider community, using an established curriculum and experienced teachers. One of their instructors, Kim Palmer, was brought on board to teach classes specifically for parents



of deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Two levels were offered in Fall 2020, again in Winter 2021, and currently in Spring 2021. Through these classes, families have a chance to watch pre-recorded lessons, as well as through “live” practice over Zoom.

This is what some of the participants had to say:

“Our teacher, Kim, was a very good communicator and teacher. The pre-read and homework materials were also really good. I would highly recommend this course to all interested in ASL.”

“The teacher, Kim, was AMAZING. We loved the format for watching videos ahead of time as an intro to the content. It helped us retain what was taught in class because it wasn't all brand new. Very great format. Made it easier to learn!”

“I love the way the class was set up with videos to watch on your own time and the teacher was fantastic!!!”

Thank you to Kim and the Queer ASL team for your continued partnership. The next block of classes will be offered in Fall 2021.

Talk to your early interventionist to see what format (Individual or Group classes) might be the best fit for you and your family!

REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITY

BC Achievement Honours One of our Own

The Community Award is the cornerstone of BC Achievement's mission to honour excellence and inspire achievement in the province of BC. The program recognizes the contributions of extraordinary British Columbians who build better, stronger, more resilient communities and shine as examples of dedication and service.



BC Achievement recognizes the recipients of the 2021 Community Award through the **#shinethelightbc** campaign. It is through their contribution that BC Achievement continues to elevate excellence, share success and inspire change.



Teresa Kazemir

BC Hands & Voices is a parent-driven organization that serves families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing (DHH.) It is thanks to Teresa's unwavering and inspired leadership that BC Hands & Voices has been able to support hundreds of families, providing them access to networks, resources, information and community. Teresa's philosophy of *'we can't do everything, but we can do something'* helped to grow BC Hands & Voices into the sustainable, strong organization it is today. As an advocate, volunteer and leader, Teresa's efforts mean that families across BC have consistent access to parent-to-parent support. Known for her patience, her valiant work ethic and her infectious enthusiasm, Teresa is a much-loved figure in the DHH community.

Those of us who work with Teresa know how deserving she is of this accolade. Although, she herself would prefer to remain out of the spotlight, we have a hard time keeping her many talents hidden!

Congratulations Teresa!

REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITY

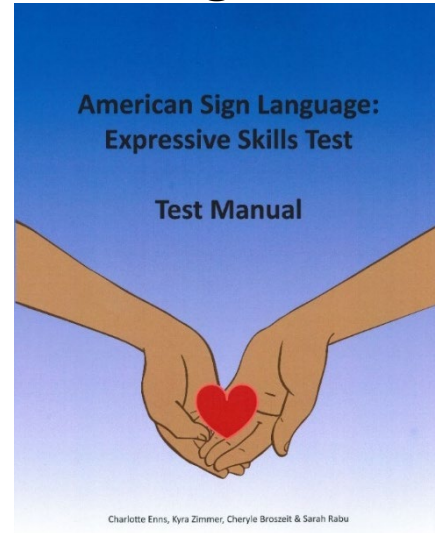
American Sign Language – Expressive Skills Training

In early May 2021, BCFHRC and Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre (IDHHC) Sign Language Consultants, as well as a few Early Interventionists, took part in a two-day American Sign Language – Expressive Skills Test (ASL-EST) training.



This training was led by a team from Northern Signs Research of Manitoba (Dr. Charlotte Enns, Cheryle Broszeit, Kyra Zimmer and Sarah Rabu), who developed this assessment.

This tool measures a child's ability to sign a story in ASL, and administrators assess the story structure and ASL grammar, and compare these scores against those of native signers. As you may know, there are many standardized options for assessing spoken language skills of children, but not as many of these tools to assess sign language in a standardized way. Testers must be certified to use this assessment, so we are thrilled to now have the ASL-EST in our "toolbox" of assessments!



BCFHRS Outreach Services: Who? What? Where?



Correction: In our last issue, some information was inadvertently missed. Please note the following regions that Carolyn Hawrish, Early Interventionist, provides outreach services for: Thompson and Okanagan, North Interior (Fort St. John & Dawson Creek) and Yukon Territory. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Below is information of our staff and the regions and services offered.

Early Interventionists

- Dyan Spear: Vancouver Island South, Central, North, & Sunshine Coast
- Teresa Kazemir: Vancouver Island North - Port Hardy & nearby areas
- Stephanie Macaro: Vancouver Island West - Port Alberni & nearby areas & East Kootenay
- Courtney Lawrence – Okanagan
- Valerie Marshall: West Kootenay
- Carolyn Hawrish: Thompson & Okanagan; North Interior; Yukon
- Alex Lay: North - Prince George & nearby areas
- Charmaine Francis: North - Williams Lake & nearby areas
- Emily Black: North Coast

Throughout British Columbia and the Yukon

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Support Staff

- Karen Jackson
- Suzie Fairweather

Family Support Parents

- Cathy Luther
- Jen Gow

BITS & PIECES

New Faces!

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of the BCFHRS Team!



Jasmine Westwood

Jasmine is a Sign Language Consultant/Deaf Role Model, working out of our Surrey office. She is also an alumni of our program! Jasmine is deaf and bilingual in ASL and spoken/written English. Her preferred mode of communication is ASL. Jasmine grew up on Vancouver Island and is the only deaf person in her family. She moved to the mainland in high school to attend Mountain Secondary School. After graduation she briefly attended Gallaudet University, then completed her studies at the University of the Fraser Valley receiving a Bachelor of Social Work degree. Jasmine has a passion for helping others in the deaf and hard of hearing community and really enjoys working with children and families.



Eileen Edinger

Eileen is working at our Surrey Centre as a Sign Language Instructor/Deaf Role Model. Eileen, who is Deaf from birth, grew up near San Francisco, California graduated from Gallaudet University and moved to Canada in 1991. She has raised two daughters who are both now grown. One of her daughters is also Deaf and graduated from Gallaudet as well. She is also passionate about advocacy for better accessibility for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community.



Valerie Wasmund

Valerie is working out of our Surrey office as a Speech Language Pathologist, (pending registration) supporting families in the lower mainland. Valerie graduated from the Speech-Language Pathology program at UBC in 2021 and has gained clinical experience in various environments, including Northern BC, the Surrey School District, and Royal Columbian Hospital. Valerie strives to provide an evidenced based, family centered approach to therapy and is excited to be working closely with children and their families.

BITS & PIECES

New Faces!

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of the BCFHRS Team!

Janelle Milne



Janelle is working at our Bright Futures Specialized Childcare at our Surrey Centre as an Early Childhood Educator. This is a homecoming for her as she is another alumni of our program! She has a long history at BCFHRS. She first came here for preschool, volunteered in 2017-2018, and has now joined the team. Janelle wears a cochlear implant on her right ear and grew up in a hearing family as the only deaf person. Over the course of her life, she became curious about the deaf community and chose to volunteer at BCFHRS. This grew into a passion for working with children who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families. Janelle recently graduated from Douglas College with a degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE). She is currently studying American Sign Language at Vancouver Community College.

Kirstie Urquhart



Kirstie is working at our Bright Futures Specialized Childcare at our Surrey Centre as an Early Childhood Educator (ECE). Kirstie is certified as an ECE working with Infants and Toddlers and Special Needs children. She has also worked as an Educational Assistant at the BC Provincial School for the Deaf and at Deaf Children's Society of BC Daycare/Preschool, in addition to working in daycares and preschools with a variety of children. She learned American Sign Language while working as a nanny for a family that had a young deaf child and is eager to use her skills working at our Childcare Centre.

Annual Satisfaction Surveys for Families

A big thank you to everyone for completing our annual satisfaction survey. As a token of our appreciation, we offered a chance to win a Chapters Indigo gift card. And the winners are...

For local families: Agnes Wen

For outreach families: Andrea Bronswyk

Congratulations to the winners! Your responses are important. It assists us in planning and improving our services and programs. Your feedback is welcome at any time, particularly if you have a worry or a concern.

BITS & PIECES

Kindness Week

From the Diversity Committee at the BCFHRS

The BC Family Hearing Resource Society (BCFHRS) will be celebrating our community's diversity by hosting ***Kindness Week*** between **January 24-28, 2022!**

We would like to invite you and your family to help us open a dialogue about inclusion, equity, and diversity by sharing your answer to the following question:

How do YOU show kindness?

Tell us what being kind means to you and/or your child(ren) and how you practice inclusion in your home and/or community:

- Write a note
- Draw a picture
- Take a photograph
- Make a short video (3 minutes max)

We will be sharing submissions, during Kindness Week, with our community on social media, our websites and through emails.

Please email your contribution for Kindness Week to



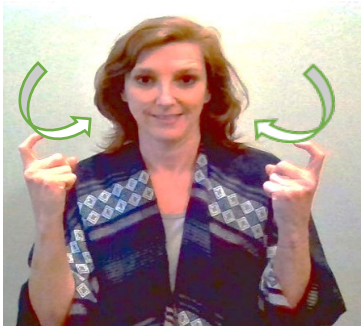









diversitycommittee@bcfamilyhearing.com

with "KINDNESS WEEK" in the subject heading

by December 31st, 2021

SIGN LANGUAGE

Happy Birthday Signs featuring Karen Jackson

 <p>HAPPY</p>	 <p>BIRTHDAY</p>	 <p>CELEBRATE</p>
 <p>CANDLE</p>	 <p>BLOW</p>	 <p>BALLOON</p>
 <p>PARTY</p>	 <p>SING</p>	 <p>CAKE</p>
 <p>SHARE</p>	 <p>PRESENT</p>	

Check out this website to see signs 'in person' <http://www.handspeak.com>

Calendar

2021

September

- 6 Labour Day – **Centres Closed**
- 13 Bright Futures Specialized Daycare opens
- 22 Annual General Meeting
- 26 Walkathon/Welcome Back Event
- 27 Supporting DHH Children's Early Language Acquisition Workshop for Professionals- hosted by the Surrey School District and BCFHRS (online)
- 30 National Day of Truth & Reconciliation – **Centres Closed**

October

- Oct 5 to Apr 5 PEER Monthly Evening Sessions (online)
- 11 **Thanksgiving** – **Centres Closed**
- 16 Supporting Language Development at Home Workshop for Families – hosted by the Surrey School District and BCFHRS (online)
- 19 Education Fair (online)
- 22 Canadian Association of Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing annual Conference (online)
- 22-23 Speech and Hearing BC Annual Conference – Whistler BC
- 29 Foundations for Professionals (online)
- 30 (part 1) Foundations for Families (online)
- 31 **Happy Halloween**

November

- 4 Infant Workshop for Speech Language Pathologists & Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- 6 (part 2) Foundations for Families (online)
- 11 Remembrance Day – **Centres Closed**

December

- 12 Winter Party
- 24 – 28 **Centres Closed for Christmas and Boxing Day**

Staff Visits to Communities in BC, Yukon and Northwest Territories!

Now that travel restrictions have eased, Outreach travel has resumed. Sessions/meetings will occur in a community centre or a room at a hotel, or outdoors until further notice.

Reaching Out

Newsletter published quarterly by
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Executive Director:
Dr. Noreen Simmons
Editor: Cindy Adams

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.

Newsletter via Email - In our efforts to "Go Green" we now **only offer an electronic distribution**

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