



Partnerships for healthy children, happy families and informed communities

Greetings Community Partners!

I would like to share with you some of the community successes that have occurred so far this year. I would also like to take a moment to thank all of you for being so dedicated to improving things for our Prince George children, youth and families.

Cheers to you all!

Jenn Tkachuk
Children First Manager



Children First Highlights January 2011-June 2011

- The previous Children First Table and the Community Services Integration Committee joined together to form one community table (Prince George Child & Youth Planning Committee *working title) supporting ECD, CYSN and CYMH initiatives in Prince George. Currently this table is working towards the development of a strategic plan supporting Prince George children, youth and families.
- The Preschool Health Day Circuits in January and April provided families throughout the community the ability to complete an Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) which assists families in knowing where their child is developmentally. Developmental resources, referrals and open discussion with Early Childhood Development professionals are part of the Preschool Health Day Circuit experience.
- In June community partners got together to host the 9th Annual Early Years Health Fair. This event promotes awareness regarding the many areas of early childhood development. The event was held at The Exploration Place & Fort George Park and was well received by the community.
- Children First, in collaboration with the Child Development Centre and Success by 6, hosted 2 community sessions with Dr. Paul Kershaw. Dr. Kershaw came to Prince George to discuss the *15 by 15 Framework* and Smart Family Policy.
- Children First continues to improve and update the website(www.childrenfirstni.com) as a way of supporting communication throughout ECD/CYSN/CYMH groups, committees, tables, organizations throughout the Northern Interior (Prince George, Mackenzie, Robson and Canoe Valleys, Quesnel).

- In collaboration with Strong Starts, NH Parenting Programs, AXIS Family Resources, and the Child Development Centre, Children First surveyed parents/caregivers of preschoolers as a method of exploring their ECD needs.
- Community grant dollars supported the following projects and initiatives:
 - The Green Peas Project- *AimHi*
 - Accessible for All Playground- Swing Set- *CYSN Committee*
 - Mothers for Recovery Peer Mentorship Program- *Northern Family Health Society*
 - Lighting the Way: Infant & Child Development and Mental Health Conference- *Northern Attachment Network Advisory*
 - Father Friendly Project- *Parenting Committee*
 - National Aboriginal Day Celebration: Cultural Crafts for Kids- *Carrier Sekani Family Services*
 - Cultural Summer Program- *Kikino Métis Children and Family Services*
 - The Preschool Hotline Newsletter- *NH Speech & Language Department*



"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

— [Dr. Seuss](#) ([The Lorax](#))

Stay tuned for more great things to come...