

The Prince George and Area Child Care Resource & Referral Newsletter
SPRING 2012

Serving the Communities of:

Prince George, McBride,
Valemount, Vanderhoof, Fort
St James, Fraser Lake, Fort
Fraser, Burns Lake, McLeod
Lake, Mackenzie & Fort Ware.

Office Hours

Monday to Friday

8:30am – 4:30pm

**Mondays Late Openings
till 7:00pm**

Saturday Openings:

May 12 /June 16, 2012

***Highland Resource**

Library Hours:

Every Wednesday

11:00 am – 2:00pm

Located at 155 McDermid Dr

MAY IS CHILD CARE MONTH

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Team

Gail Mason – Coordinator

Cindy MacLachlan – Family Consultant

Heidi Wyss – Child Care Consultant/Outreach

Lisa Binns – Child Care Consultant/Outreach

Georgiana Melnychuk – Resource Consultant

CCRR Office will be **closed May 21**, for Victoria Day and
June 19, 20, & 21 for our Regional Conference.

CCRR Public Use Computer

Families and child care providers may use the Public computer for child
care related business.

CCRR Membership is open to the entire Community.....child care
providers, parents, grandparents, community groups, agencies and
schools. Membership is based on a small annual fee. Ask us about a CCRR
Membership today!

P.O. Box 1808, 2020 Massey Drive, Prince George, BC V2L 4V7
Ph: 250-563-2483 Fax: 250-563-2482 1-800-680-6699

www.pgymca.com/ www.crr.bc.ca

CCRR is funded by The Ministry of Children and Family
Development and Sponsored by The Family YMCA of Prince
George. CCRR provides information, support, resources and
referral services to child care providers and families in the
Prince George and surrounding area.

Since 1982, the provincial government along with the child care community has marked the month of May as Child Care Month. We want to honor and commend all of you for the work that you do for children and families.

To support that work, we are bringing together a great training day on Saturday, May, 26th. This day will combine the Outdoor Play workshop with Natural Pod co-founder Bridgette Alomes and the Play It Fair training from equitas – the International Centre for Human Rights Education. Come and join us for some inspiration and hands on activities for your programs. We will be providing lunch as well.

By popular demand we are also bringing back the licensing officers for another Emergency Preparedness Information Session. Be sure to call and register if you haven't attended one yet.

Watch for us in your neighborhood during the month of May as we come out to thank you for all that you do to make the world a better place for children. Happy Spring.

Hello Valued Members of CCRR,

As many of you know I have been on an extended maternity leave prior to and throughout the last year since the arrival of our twin daughters Allison and Mya in April 2011. After careful consideration, I have decided not to return to the position of Coordinator for the Prince George and Area CCRR at this time. This decision weighs largely on the needs of our family. I truly enjoyed my work at CCRR and with the dedicated staff who make CCRR a valuable asset to our communities. I will continue to be involved in the childcare community both with CCRR and the Family YMCA in a small way as needed. I would like to thank those of you who have been supportive to me in the relationships we have built over the years. Being a mom is a true honor and I feel very fortunate to have this time with our girls.

Respectfully, Jacquie



Your community's best source of child care information and resources.

**“When you give a little
of yourself to a child,
you give a little of
yourself to their
future” Kevin Heath**

Check out the new Physical Activity guidelines for children aged 0-4 years at www.csep.ca/guidelines.

Injury Prevention site; Safe Start www.bcchildrens.ca/safestart

Learn more about the importance of play from The National Institute for PLAY <http://www.instituteforplay.com/>

**“Children are our most
valuable natural resource”
Herbert Hoover**

CCRR /OUTREACH/COURSE SCHEDULES/INTERACTIVE PLAY/WORKSHOPS

OUTREACH CORNER: Child Care Consultant: Heidi Wyss heidi.wyss@pgymca.com

Ph: 1-800-680-6699 Child Care Consultant: Lisa Binns lisa.binns@pgymca.com

CCRR is committed to providing services to the communities we serve: Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, Fraser Lake, Fort Fraser, Burns Lake, Mackenzie, McBride, Valemount, Kwadacha and surrounding areas. Please call or email if we can assist you.

CCRR attended the Early Years Health Fair in Mackenzie in March; Ready, Set, Learn Fair in Vanderhoof and the Fort St. James Children's Festival in April. We will be at the 3 Year Old Screening in Burns Lake in May, and the Kindergarten Screenings in the Robson Valley in June. We look forward to seeing you when we are in your community.

COURSES/TRAINING/WORKSHOPS

Pre-registration is accepted by phone or walk in. Full-payment must be received in advance of the course start date to confirm registration. We accept payment in cash, credit card or business cheque. Refunds will only be considered for those participants who give 72 hours notice of cancellation. CCRR Office is located at the YMCA 2020 Massey Drive. Phone: 250-563-2483. Workshops that have no fee attached still require participants to register by calling the office.

Handle With Care Building Blocks 6 & 7

When: May 12, 2012 Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm
Location: CCRR Office Family Room Cost: Free

Outdoor Play & Play it Fair! Workshops

When: Saturday, May 26th, 2012 Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm
Location: Highland Development Centre Cost: \$30.00 members \$40.00 non members
Lunch Included

Emergency & Disaster Preparedness Information Session – Monday, May 28 6:30-8:30 pm at CCRR - free

Next: Responsible Adult Course: September 24, 2012

Next: Good Beginnings: September 17, 2012

Interactive Play at Highland Family Development Center 10:00am-11:00am

May 11/June 8, 2012 No Interactive Play in July and August.

WATCH FOR **STORY TIME** IN THE PARK DATES AND LOCATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED!

An integrated approach to indoor and outdoor play.

- What is the value of natural play?
- How do we create a seamless transition from indoor to outdoor exploration?
- What ways can we provide the best unencumbered learning environment?

It's time to invite young children to enjoy more play and less structure. Join natural play advocate **Bridgitte Alomes** in an enlightening workshop where you will explore the open-endedness of an unencumbered learning pallet. While playing outside, children enter into an enchanting world where they develop a deep connection to the earth, and their imagination, creativity, and sensory exploration are all ignited. Children build strong foundations while exploring, investigating and experimenting through outdoor play. But the benefits do not have to end at the classroom door. Discover how children can reap the benefits of natural play by integrating outdoor play into your everyday curriculum. Reawaken your intuition to teach through space and invitation. Your environment is the third teacher.

Participants are asked to bring: an item from nature that they have a connection with and their imaginations. Leave filled with ideas for your learning environments and inspiration galore.

Bridgitte Alomes Bio

As a mother to two young children, Natural Pod co-founder and co-owner Bridgitte Alomes is incredibly passionate when it comes to free, natural play. It is this passion that drives her to be an advocate for creating better environments and experiences to help our children flourish. Bridgitte's passion is a testament to positive changes not only in the way we approach natural play, but also to the evolution of classroom, facility design and outdoor experiences, ultimately shaping the future of education.

For the past six years, Bridgitte has been dedicated to play-based environments and materials for educators and families. The importance of the environment around children, how they interact with it and what is presented to them is paramount for Bridgitte. Since 2010, Bridgitte has engaged, enlightened and informed approximately 6,000 administrators and teachers through natural play workshops where participants explore the open endedness of an unencumbered learning pallet.



"Your presentation this morning was absolutely wonderful! My students were just buzzing today telling their peers in other classes about the incredible ideas to bring nature indoors and to nurture children's oral language and play. You made a huge impression on those students."

Pamela Quigg, UVC Instructor



When the newest trend in education is "Bringing Nature" into the classroom, the Natural Pod workshop comes at an opportune time. Bridgitte invites you to explore nature and natural items with your senses and explains how you can introduce and teach the wonders of nature to children. Natural settings are full of objects that automatically capture our children. Her ideas are simple: rocks, sunflowers, shells and more. I never thought to use sheets and chairs in my classroom to make a giant circus tent, a haunted house or space ship. My kindergarten kids loved the haunted house we made! Bridgitte invites you to adopt another perspective towards natural materials. More importantly, her philosophy supports research that states that implementing nature elements in school programs enhances brain development in children. A long flowing rainbow coloured scarf - the possibilities are endless! Now why didn't I think of that?
Gloria Olson Kindergarten Teacher, Abbotsford, BC

natural play workshop

Presented by **Bridgitte Alomes**
CEO of Play | Co-Founder of Natural Pod

equitas educate. empower. change.



Play It Fair! is an innovative program implemented in day camps and after school programs across Canada that increases children aged 6-12 understanding of human rights, respect for diversity and peaceful conflict resolution. The [Play It Fair! Toolkit](#) contains interactive age appropriate activities and games that reinforce the positive values and fundamental principles of human dignity and equality set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The games and activities in the toolkit provide a starting point for children to discuss issues in their lives and work together to find ways to promote inclusion, respect, fairness, acceptance and cooperation. This unique approach succeeds because the children are having so much fun that they don't even realize they are learning!

Play It Fair! was developed in Montréal in 2004, and launched nationally in 2006. Each year, the program reaches approximately 65,000 children and over 2,500 child care workers in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montréal, Fredericton, Moncton and Dieppe. Equitas is developing new partnerships to expand the program to Victoria, Halifax, Charlottetown and with First Nations communities in Manitoba, Nova Scotia and British Columbia.

The tools and approaches of *Play It Fair!* are appropriate for use in diverse communities and within a variety of settings (e.g. summer camps, after school programs and classrooms). Equitas works with its local partners across Canada to adapt the program to meet their particular needs.

Minor Capital Funding

Minor Capital Funding Program is now available for Licensed Group, Preschool and Group School Age facilities.

For further Information go to th Ministry of Children and Family Development Capital Funding Website at: <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/capital.htm>

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS/EVENTS/TRAINING/MEETINGS

FIRST AID TRAINING DATES

St. John Ambulance – Emergency Child Care First Aid

May 12, 2012 and June 9, 2012 - 8:30am – 4:30pm

Contact: 250-561-1696 Cost: \$92.00

Lifesavers First Aid Training – Emergency Child Care First Aid

May 12, 2012 - 8:30am – 4:30pm

June date TBA

Contact: 250-562-1238 Cost: \$85.00

www.lifesaversfirstaid.ca



Prince George Child Care Association Meeting May 9th at Ruth Handfords House and June 13, 2012 at Glenda's House.

Please contact Katie for more information phone 250-962-7674

ECEBC CALEDONIA BRANCH Next Meeting May 22, 2012 <http://ecebcaledoniabranch.weebly.com>

Building Bridges-Supporting Children & Families BCFCCA Conference. **June 1 & 2nd** in Kelowna. For conference registration please go to: <http://kelconference2012.blogspot.com/>

WEE SPROUTS – WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION IN OUR JUNE UPDATES.

*******HEALTHY KIDS DAY *****JUNE 3, 2012 at the PGYMCA**

Don't forget to tell your families about the
Early Years Health Fair, June 9th 10 -2 at Exploration Place

R-LNR Orientations

Are you thinking about doing childcare in your home? Do you know somebody who is caring for one or two children in their home? PGCCRR will be offering an orientation session to become a Registered License Not Required provider each month on the 4th Thursday from 10 – 11 am.

Jodi has daycare items for sale: Garage Sale May 5th call 250-961-1611

RESOURCE LENDING LIBRARY

Georgeana Melnychuk – Resource Consultant

Email: Georgeana.melnichuk@pgymca.com or visit
<http://childcarechoices.ca/main/North/Prince+George/>

ALL BORROWED ITEMS MUST BE RETURNED TO CCRR AT HIGHLAND OR MASSEY (depending on where you borrowed them from) BY JUNE 6TH FOR ANNUAL INVENTORY & SAFETY INSPECTION

THE RESOURCE LENDING LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED FOR INVENTORY JUNE 7th TO 21ST. PLEASE LOOK THROUGH YOUR CENTERS FOR ANY CCRR RESOURCES AND RETURN THEM TO THE CCRR BY JUNE 6TH.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES/SUBSTITUTES/ODDS & ENDS

Employment Opportunities: Land of Laughter – contact Jennifer at 887 Carney Street or email: jjshere@telus.net See our website for more details
PGYMCA – various childcare & camp positions see webpage www.pgymca.com

Check out our website for upcoming events <http://childcarechoices.ca/main/North/Prince+George/>

SUBSTITUTE CARE PROVIDERS:

Melanie McLaren (RA) mmclaren158@hotmail.com (Please contact through e-mail as she is hard of hearing.)

Celina Richards (ECE) 250-562-8185

If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a substitute please have them contact us for further information. Remember it is the provider's responsibility as a licensed facility to have copies of relevant documents on file. Contact: cindy.maclachland@pgymca.com or Phone CCRR: 250-563-2483.

ECE Registry Web site at: <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/chilcare/ece/apply.htm> and
<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/ece/renew.htm>

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS available at the CCRR Office. Orders are due **May 20, & June 10th, 2012**

PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE TO UPDATE YOUR CHILDCARE SPACES.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Highland	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Highland	10	11 Play day	12 Opened
13	14	15	16 Highland	17	18	19
20	21 Closed	22	23 Highland	24	25	26 Workshop
27	28 Workshop	29	30 Highland	31		

May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Healthy Kids Day	4	5	6 Highland	7 Inventory	8 Play day	9 Early Years Fair
10	11 Inventory	12 Inventory	13 Inventory	14 Inventory	15 Inventory	16 Opened
17	18 Inventory	19 Closed	20 Closed	21 Closed	22	23
24	25	26	27 Highland	28	29	30

June 2012