

Mission Community Grants 2005-2006

The ECD Committee in conjunction with the Children First initiative (from the Ministry of Children and Family Development) and Success By 6 (a United Way and B.C. government early learning initiative) has distributed \$23,565 in funds to groups in the community. A tender for grants was advertised in local newspapers in December and final decisions were made in January.

Projects had to target children zero to 6 and their families and enhance their development, health and well-being.

Applicants submitted many wonderful proposals. Chosen projects included:

- Story Telling Kits from Fraser Valley Regional Library to develop new storytelling kits and refurbish and expand older kits. These kits are available for borrowing at the Mission library, 33247 2nd Ave., 604-826-6610.
- A Kindergarten Readiness program from Future 4 Nations to continue a program developed last year with a new elder component and parental involvement held on Tuesday afternoons. For information about the program contact Marne Ferris at 604-820-4567.
- A Children's Literacy Corner at WHIN (West Heights Inclusive Neighbourhood Project at West Heights Elementary) a community hub, to continue providing early literacy programming with a story hour, free play and a snack at 3 sessions (2 ESL sessions while moms learn English) per week. Located at 32065 Van Velzen, call Jackie Hultman for more information.
- A Child Restraint Awareness Program from the Mission Child Safety Committee to continue information sessions at community events and increase frequency of clinics from 1 to 2 per month to check proper installation of children's car seats and boosters. Call the Health Unit for more information 604-814-5500.

- To Mission 4 Kids Family Place from Community Services to increase hours of programming at Family Place for drop-ins with crafts, story times, play groups and snacks. Located at 7369 James St., call Jen Ness for more information at 604-826-3634 or Family Place at 604-826-3323.
- Nobody's Perfect parenting course from Future 4 Nations for an 8 week course for First Nations parents and caregivers. Call Future 4 Nations at 604-820-4567 for more information.
- Alphabet Soup newspaper articles from Lynn Easton to produce 5 columns for local newspapers to address issues of Early Childhood Development. Call 604-826-2295 for suggestions for articles.
- Lady Bug Community Kitchen and Healthy Choices Project from Art Matters Society/ Mission Montessori Preschool to develop a free community kitchen for parents while allowing their children to participate in a free preschool experience. To extend an established healing workshop and develop a co-op shopping network. Call 604-820-4997 for more information.

All grant recipients will return to the committee in the fall and report on the impact of their work.

For more information about the Early Childhood Development Committee and our Understanding the Early Years project or Success By 6 call 604-826-2295 or e-mail us at ecdcommittee@shawbiz.ca or look up our website at www.missionecdcom.shawbiz.ca/Home.html