

Infant Development Program Handbook



"BELIEVING IN POTENTIAL"

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reach
CHILD AND YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Vision Mission & Values

VISION *Communities where all children, youth and families are welcomed, included, and leading lives of well-being based on their own individual strengths, interests, and values.*

MISSION *To provide timely, accessible and supportive community programs and services for the optimal development of children and youth, where children, youth and families flourish and reach their potential.*

VALUES

Respectfulness

Excellence

Attitude of sharing

Collaborative spirit

Honesty

Continuous improvement

Handle resources efficiently

Integrity

Learning

Diversity

Guiding Principles

1. Appreciating childhood as a unique and valuable stage of the human life cycle and basing our work with children and youth on the knowledge of children development.
2. Appreciating and supporting the bond between the child or youth and family.
3. Recognizing that children and youth are best understood and supported in the context of family, culture, community and society.
4. Respecting the dignity, worth and uniqueness of each individual (child, youth, family member, and colleague).
5. Helping children and youth achieve their full potential in the context of relationships that are based on trust, respect, and positive regard.
6. That children are best nurtured by a family that knows, loves and honors them for who they are.
7. That all children have the right to play and learn in an inclusive environment that meets the needs of children with and without disabilities.
8. That relationships and friendships are essential to enrich our lives.
9. That all individuals are entitled to the services and supports required to ensure their full participation in our society.
10. That the involvement of families and support networks contributes to everyone's safety and well-being.
11. That services and supports must be delivered in a way that respects an individual's diverse history, culture, race, religion and sexual orientation.
12. That inclusive communities enrich the lives of all citizens.

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What Are We?

The Infant Development Program provides a range of family-centered services and supports for infants and young children birth to 3 years old. The first Infant Development Program in British Columbia was established in 1972. The program is funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development. There is no cost to receive services.



Staff Training and Expertise

Our infant development consultants are professionals skilled in providing an effective home-based intervention service. IDP consultants have training in one or more of the following disciplines: child development; psychology; social work; physiotherapy; occupational therapy; child and youth care; nursing, education; early childhood education; developmental services or other related disciplines.

Infant development consultants bring a unique set of skills and abilities to work with infants and their families. Their expertise covers knowledge of typical and atypical child development; observational skills; the ability to assess child and family strengths and needs; appreciation of issues related to family dynamics and child-rearing.

Family-centered service focusing on the strengths and needs of the family is promoted to encourage positive parent-child interactions and to promote the infant's optimal developmental progress.



Who Are the Children and Families We Serve?

The Delta Infant Development Program is designed to serve infants, birth to three years of age who have a developmental delay or who are at risk for developmental delay and their families who live in Delta.

What Do We Do?



We provide an integrated approach to infant development and family-centered intervention that is parent-led and responsive to parent strengths, competencies and priorities.

The family is the major decision-maker in a child's life, and the active involvement of the family throughout our involvement is essential to a satisfactory and meaningful outcome.

Through collaboration with other service providers, we aim to provide the highest level of opportunity for the optimal development of the child and family unit. Infant Development Program Consultant support is usually provided within the child's natural environment.

Services provided are tailored to child and family need and may include:

- Home visits
- Informal and formal child assessment, using a variety of tools
- Family Needs Assessment
- Support to enhance parenting skills and increased understanding of child development
- Sharing information on typical and atypical child growth and development
- Intervention to promote positive parent-infant interactions and support for the relationship
- Planning interventions to promote optimal development and secure infant attachment
- Early intervention in all developmental domains (gross and fine motor, social and emotional, language and cognitive)
- Assistance to families in connecting with other families for parent to parent support
- Assistance to families in accessing more specialized services and information about additional community resources and supports
- Assistance to parents in obtaining information about their child's condition or diagnosis
- Support to the family when a diagnosis of developmental delay or medical condition exists
- Acting as service coordinator or supporting a family member or other professional in this role
- Advocacy for and with families in their relationships with health, social, educational and community services
- Provision of parent-child group programs or support to families in accessing community programs
- Community-wide planning with other service providers to prevent duplication or fragmentation of service and to identify gaps in service
- Public education to promote the benefits of early identification, intervention for child and families at risk

Family Centered Practice

Within a family-centered philosophy, the infant development consultant supports families in the identification of their needs, resources and service requirements. The family's involvement and participation is a recognized key factor in the achievement of successful outcomes. Collaboration across individual professionals and agencies is also key to ensure that family life is strengthened rather than stressed by intervention.

Frequency and time of service is established according to family and child needs, and is dependent on the resources available and other community supports available to the family. Families know their children best and are the most important and constant factor in their child's lives. In family centered practice, the needs of the family as a whole are honoured.



Referral to the Infant Development Program

It is not required that a child have a diagnosis to access our services. Referrals require permission from parents and are made by parents, physicians, public health nurses and other community professionals. Referral forms can be found on the Reach Child and Youth Development Society website at www.reachchild.org.



If Your Child is Put on the Waitlist For a Consultant

Each child and family presents a unique situation, the urgency of which is to be assessed in relation to others on the waitlist. The following considerations are reviewed when determining the provision of consultation services: transfer from another program, significant visual impairment, the degree of developmental delay, age of the child, family situation and other services being accessed.

While on the waitlist for an Infant Development Program Consultant, a family will receive an initial waitlist consultation to help determine their needs. They are also able to access the group activities outlined below. Families can contact the Infant Development Program Coordinator if they have any questions.



Group Opportunities

Our infant development program offers families the opportunity to participate in various group activities. These include:

Play Group

Infant Development Program Playgroup is for families who are currently referred to or receiving consulting services from the Infant Development Program. It is a child and family centered environment where development and learning is encouraged. Children learn through play experiences. The playgroup is facilitated by an Infant Development Program Consultant.

This program is offered in two locations:

Ladner

Mondays 10:00 to 11:30
#3 – 3800 72nd Street
Delta, BC

North Delta

Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:30
11415 – 84th Ave
Delta, BC



Mother Goose

The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program® is a group experience for parents and their babies up to 18 months which focuses on the pleasure and power of using rhymes, songs, and stories together. Parents gain skills and confidence which can enable them to create positive family patterns during their children's crucial early years, and give their children healthy early experiences with language and communication.

This program is offered at different times in North and South Delta. The Infant Development Program will inform you of upcoming sessions.

Infant Massage

Infant massage is a form of nurturing touch that is taught by trained facilitators to parents of young infants. The program teaches specific strokes on all areas of the child's body, but more importantly it encourages parents and caregivers to read their infants' cues, spend time in one-on-one interaction and get to know their infants' unique personality and temperament. Infant massage encourages bonding and attachment, and has benefits of promoting interaction, stimulation, relief and relaxation.

This program is offered at different times in North and South Delta. The Infant Development Program will inform you of upcoming sessions.

Transferring to Another Program or Service

Transferring to another program or service due to moving or your child turning three years of age requires planning on the part of the Infant Development Program Consultant and families to make the transition as smooth as possible. It is best if the discussions start well in advance of the change.



Reach Child and Youth Development Society Infant Development Program Safe Work Practice

Worksafe BC requires that employees wear shoes at all times. IDP Consultants are asked to have clean shoes that have not been work outside or hard soled slippers available to wear during meetings inside a family's home.



Outcomes of Early Intervention

Infant Development Programs are effective in promoting positive outcomes for the children and families who are nurtured through the children's early years.



Reach will advise you of any major disruptions of services and alternate plans. Should you not be able to contact your IDP consultant please contact, Manager, Early Intervention services at 604-946-6622 ext. 318. You can also call our Front Desk at 604-946-6622 ext. 300.

Please contact us if you have any concerns, questions or suggestions.

