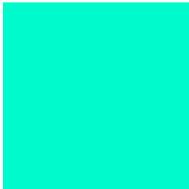




inside reach



winter
2012
newsletter

Preschool registration time

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Reach Developmental Preschool offers children an individualized kindergarten readiness curriculum that focuses on the cognitive, social and emotional benefits of play. Read more on page 4 inside.

inside reach

is published quarterly and is distributed free of charge to the membership of Reach Child and Youth Development Society.

If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe call 604-946-6622 ext. 0 or email info@reachdevelopment.org and write "newsletter" as subject line.

Submissions are welcome. Children's writing or artwork is welcome. Please include your contact information with your submission.

Submissions can be emailed to cnidoski@reachdevelopment.org with "newsletter" in the subject line, faxed to 604-946-6622 (please do not fax artwork), mailed or dropped off at the front desk. For more information about the "inside reach" newsletter please call 604-946-6622 ext.337.



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Message from the President



Even though this is the winter edition of our newsletter, I can't help but wonder what happened to winter this year! Or maybe the groundhogs are right and the next six weeks is when winter will show up.

Even in these challenging economic times, Reach is finding ways to grow! We are serving 20% more children/youth than we did last year, and have grown our overall service capacity by over two hundred "program spots". Even so, some of our waitlists have insisted on growing in size this year.

In November, our new building campaign was given a significant boost with the generous donation of \$50,000 from the Tsawwassen Boundary Bay Lions Club. The Reach Foundation is obviously growing in energy and is now starting to lay plans for significant fundraising events over the next eighteen months. Watch the Events section of our website for updates.

While its very encouraging seeing the provincial government starting to put more resources into the system in some areas, we continue to see that the demand for services exceeds the supply. Not only do we continue to focus fundraising efforts to support direct service delivery, the Board also recognizes the importance of a new location and a new building for Reach.

A special note of thanks to Dan Layton for taking such good care of our technology, which we all depend on for our day-to-day activities and collaboration. While it's good to know that we are doing proper back-ups, it's even better to see that we are actually able to restore our systems from those back-ups when we need to. Well done!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Reach Society,

Rob vanSpronsen,
President
Reach Child and Youth
Development Society

We want your feedback...



Your feedback is important to us in helping to determine the design and delivery of programs that best meet the needs of children, families and the community.

Please feel free to call Reach or email anytime with comments. Phone

604-946-6622 ext. 342 or

email at lisaw@reachdevelopment.org



Keep current with
Reach and Reach Delta
Connex on
Facebook.



You can also follow Reach on Twitter at
www.twitter.com/ReachSocietyBC

Upcoming at Reach

Reach Preschool registration for fall 2012

Reach Developmental Preschool South Delta #3 3800 72nd street Ladner.

In-house registration for returning families will begin Saturday, February 25th from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

In-house registration for new families will begin on Saturday, March 3rd from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Reach Developmental Preschool North Delta at 10921 82nd avenue North Delta.

In-house registration for returning families will begin Saturday, February 25th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

In-house registration for new families will begin on Saturday, March 3rd, 2012 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

For more information please call 604-946-6622 ext 308 or email susieg@reachdevelopment.org .



Kids Friendship Club spring sessions start April. Registration on now.

Friendships are important to our personal well-being and promote positive behaviour behavior and selfesteem. Maintaining a friendship is not easy for anyone, and young people with developmental disabilities face more challenges than many in finding and keeping friends. That's where the Reach Kids Friendship Club (KFC) program comes in. The KFC promotes friendships among children and teens by supporting and strengthening prosocial and emotional skills, and creating opportunities for children and youth to interact. Registration is on now for the spring sessions. Find out more about the program and download flyers for upcoming sessions at www.reachdevelopment.org



KFC program Registration for SPRING 2012

Grades 1 to 3 Mondays, April 16th to June 18th 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Grades 7 to 9 Tuesdays, April 10th to June 12th 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Grades 4 to 6 Wednesdays, April 11th to June 13th 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Grades 10 to 12 Saturdays, April 14th to June 16th 10 am to 1:00 pm

For more information or to register your child for the KFC call Carol at 604-946-6622 ext. 343 or email caroly@reachdevelopment.org

from the Reach Library

by Pam Collins, Reach Library Coordinator

Recently, I had many parents request information on sensory issues. So, this issue I thought I would let you all know about one of the first and still one of the best books written on this subject :

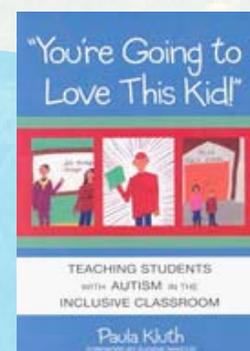
The Out-of- Sync Child by Carol Stock Kranowitz, M.A.

Do you have a picky eater? Does your child refuse to wear certain clothing? Do they cover their eyes or ears? Do they panic at the thought of going to birthday parties? Many of these symptoms may indicate Sensory Integration Dysfunction, which is a common but often misdiagnosed problem for our children. Ms. Kranowitz describes examples of students from Kindergarten through grade 7 who have a variety of challenges with a variety of senses. She writes in such a way that you can immediately picture these children or one of your own! She offers many strategies for both at school and at home. For further strategies she has written a companion book called "Out-of-Sync Child Has Fun: Activities for Kids with Sensory Processing Disorder". This one presents over one hundred playful activities that help develop and organize a child's brain and body.



"You're Going to Love this Kid" by Paula Kluth.

Paula Kluth is a former special education teacher and has written this book for educators and parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. However, her views on inclusion and strategies for engaging learners apply to the diversity of today's classrooms and all our learners. She provides concrete examples for preparing lesson plans, engineering a safe learning environment, promoting communication opportunities and understanding challenging behaviours. She proposes sensitive new ways to see and understand all students. It is a wonderful and practical book for educators and for parents – who after reading it can present it to their favorite teachers! If you want to see Paula Kluth, she is coming to present "You're Going to Love This Kid": Teaching & Supporting Children on the Spectrum" at the Marriot Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond BC on February 24, 2012 (see page 6 of this newsletter or go to www.autismawarenesscentre.com.)



Reach depends on family feedback..

In January, 2012 Reach distributed it's bi-annual Family Satisfaction Surveys to all families who have a child in a Reach program. Surveys were sent either by mail, or with a link via email to an online version.

Families recieved a survey for each program their child is enrolled in. These surveys are important in helping us to be responsive to the needs of the children, youth and families we serve in designing and delivering our programs and services. Your feedback helps us determine where we are strongest and where we should be making changes to better meet the needs of families.

If you have not done so already, please fill out your survey and send it into Reach today. If you have any questions about the Family Satisfaction Survey please call 604-946-6622 ext. 342 or email

lisaw@reachdevelopment.org



Our mission is to

- provide early and timely intervention for children with special needs in a family-centered manner
- provide choices and ongoing support to children and families
- facilitate and support the full integration of all children into our community
- exist as a quality community resource for the optimal development of children from infancy onwards



Two important days to recognize coming up.

B.C. Pink Shirt Day Wednesday February 29th, 2012

Pink Shirt Anti-Bullying Day is a day people wear something pink to raise awareness of bullying and encourage people to find solutions.

Reach staff and programs recognize Pink Shirt Day each year through discussions with the children and youth in our programs. The message is especially important to share with preschoolers. "We believe that Pink Shirt Day is an important and meaningful activity for preschoolers because the social learning starts here", says Jean Sedor, teacher at Reach Developmental Preschool North Delta. "At preschool we talk about how everyone has abilities, that we are special as individuals, unique, and that each person has something to offer."

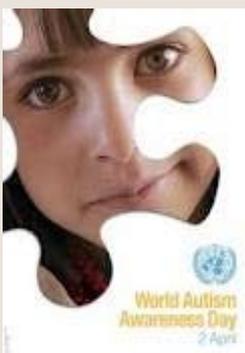
You can find more information about Pink Shirt Anti-Bullying Day and resources you can use in your classroom or group at www.pinkshirtday.ca. The site features articles, videos, links to related websites, and items to purchase, such as Pink Shirt Day t-shirts. Articles on the website include Signs of a Bully, 10 Solutions to Bully-Proof Kids, and news on how others recognize Pink Shirt Day and what they're doing to stop bullying in their community. Mark February 29th on your calendar and remember to wear pink!



World Autism Awareness Day Monday April 2nd, 2012

On December 18, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly designated April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day. April 2, 2012 will mark the fifth annual celebration of World Autism Awareness Day. Every year, autism organizations around the world celebrate the day aiming to raise awareness about autism, to encourage early diagnosis and early intervention, to encourage inclusion and supports, and to celebrate the unique talents and skills of persons with autism.

Reach will be recognizing both of these days on our Facebook and Twitter pages with links to great websites where you can find information, interesting articles and resources to download. Please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ReachSocietyBC and our Twitter page at www.twitter.com/reachsocietybc



Preschool imaginative play strengthens important skills.



In January, children at Reach Developmental Preschool South Delta were busy at play in their pretend town of shopping centres and grocery stores. Teachers set up stations where the children pretended they were shopkeepers and customers buying groceries and household items. Using toys like plastic food, cash registers and play money the children interacted and had fun while strengthening important developmental skills .

Imaginative play is a vital part of the preschool learning curriculum. There is growing research supporting the connections between cognitive competence and high-quality pretend play.



Pretend play engages many areas of the brain because it involves emotion, cognition, language, and sensorimotor actions. It requires role taking, communication, and improvisation and involves cognitive strategies such as joint planning, negotiation, problem solving and goal-seeking. Social referencing as well is a large part of pretend play: children are observing someone else's responses and showing an understanding of others' thinking and beliefs, in order to decide how to respond to an ambiguous situation.

Social development is a key area in the measurement of children's competencies upon entering kindergarten. With kindergarten now being a full six hours each school day, children are required to have higher levels of social and emotional competencies. Ensuring play is a part of every preschool child's day will promote the development of the thinking and social skills that will support later learning, and help children to be more prepared for the challenges of a full day away from home.



Resources & links for children, youth and families....

The Special Needs iPad & App Series

The market for special needs applications for the Apple iPad has become so big that Apple has created a Special Education section of their App Store to cater to special needs.

The website **The Friendship Circle Blog: Special Needs Resources for Parents and Educators** has put together a nine part series on the iPad and useful applications. The series aims to provide guidance and resources that will make it easier for those looking for more information about the iPad, new apps and special education.

The series includes:

- * 7 Assistive Communication Apps
- * 7 Scheduling and Behavioural Apps
- * 11 Social Skills and Life Skills Apps
- * 10 Websites to Find Special Needs Apps
- * 7 Special Needs Apps in the Google Android Market

Here's a sample:



Model Me Going Places

Price: Free

Link: <https://market.android.com/details?id=org.cocos2dx.application>

Model Me Going Places™ is a great visual teaching tool for helping your child learn to navigate challenging locations in the community. Each location contains a photo slide show of children modeling appropriate behavior. Locations include: Hairdresser, Mall, Doctor, Playground, Grocery Store, Restaurant

To read the series visit the site at <http://blog.friendshipcircle.org/2011/02/02/the-special-needs-ipad-app-series/>

from the Reach Health and Safety committee.

Infant and Toddler Health

With colds and flus going around it's important to keep on top on healthy habits, especially around young children. Here are some tips on keeping the bugs at bay. Modified from the Best Chance website at www.bestchance.gov.bc.ca

Preventing Illness

You can help prevent your child from getting sick by doing three simple things: getting your child immunized, washing your child's hands, and keeping surfaces clean.

Immunizations

Immunization is the best way to protect your child against many serious diseases. British Columbia provides publicly funded immunizations to protect your child against measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b disease (Hib), chicken pox, pneumococcal and meningococcal diseases, and human papilloma virus (for girls).

Hand Washing

Hand washing is the easiest way to help prevent your child from getting sick. Show your toddler how to wash his or her hands properly. Wash hands for 15 to 20 seconds, (about the time it takes to



sing Happy Birthday.) Use plain soap and warm water. Wash your hands and your child's hands often, especially after changing diapers or toileting, after blowing a nose, after touching animals or cleaning a litter box, when tending a sick child, when preparing food or before eating. Avoid using antibacterial soaps. They may add to the growth of "superbugs." Superbugs are bacteria that are too strong to treat with antibiotics.

Hand Sanitizer

Hand sanitizer gel works well when you don't have access to soap and water. Just rub hands together until the gel is dry. The alcohol will kill the germs on your hands and your child's hands.

Read the Reach Health and Safety Committee feature every issue of the "inside Reach" newsletter. If you have any health or safety questions please contact Sandra Payne at 604-946-6622 ext. 338 or at sandrap@reachdevelopment.org

Keeping Surfaces Clean

Cleaning surfaces and other things that your child or your child's food touches helps prevent your child from getting sick. Some of the most important things to keep clean are:

- Food preparation areas and kitchen utensils
- High chairs, bibs, dishes and cups
- Strollers, toys
- Cribs, changing tables, other furniture that your child touches
- Garbage containers
- Pet litter boxes, pet toys, pet beds



British Columbia has a number of health resources that can help you when your child gets sick:

BC HealthGuide

The BC HealthGuide provides helpful information you can trust on many medical concerns. Available at no charge from your pharmacy.

HealthLink BC

When you need information right away, you can call HealthLink BC at 8 1 1. The registered nurses will give you 24 hour confidential information and advice. You can also speak to a pharmacist about medication concerns. The Deaf and hearing impaired number is 7 1 1 and translation services are offered in over 130 languages. You can also seek information online on the HealthLink BC website: www.healthlinkbc.ca

Public Health Offices

You have a local public health office near you. It provides many supports for you and your children. If you have any doubts about your Child's health, talk to any of the following health professionals:

- Family doctor
- Pediatrician
- Dentist
- Optometrist
- Pharmacist



Mark your calendars.

Date time & location	Name of event and description	To register...
<p>Thursday February 16th 6:00pm - 9:00pm 1110-6900 Graybar Rd. Richmond, BC V6W 0A5</p>	<p>Natural Environment Teaching Workshop This workshop for professionals and parents of children with autism shows participants that teaching can permeate every activity and that they can support their child's learning by using activities in the child's daily life. Each child has particular interests and motivation and participants are shown how to use the child's motivation for some preferred activities and reinforcers to encourage learning and practice of referencing, communication, play and social skills.</p>	<p>To register or for more info contact Tricia Bailey at tricia@abacentre.ca (604) 232-4122</p> <p>More at www.abacentre.ca</p>
<p>February 22, 2012 Registration begins at 8:30AM Workshop: 9:00AM-4:00PM Holiday Inn Vancouver Centre 711 West Broadway</p>	<p>De-escalating Potentially Violent Situations This workshop is designed to teach people to de-escalate potentially violent situations through assertiveness and interpersonal communication. Participants will develop a clear understanding of how to assess the potential for violence and respond with a diverse set of interpersonal tools and strategies designed to defuse potentially violent situations. Cost \$190+HST</p>	<p>For more information: info@ctrinstitute.com (204) 452-9199</p> <p>or visit www.ctrinstitute.com</p>
<p>February 24 & 25, 2012 8:45 am - 4:30 pm Marriott Vancouver Airport Hotel 7571 Westminster Highway Richmond, BC V6X 1A3</p>	<p>Autism Awareness Centre Conference Friday presentation by Paula Kluth "You're Going to Love This Kid": Participants will learn practical ways of supporting those with autism & other disabilities in schools, at home, and in communities. Saturday presentation by Barbara Sher "The Power of Play How Sensory Games Can Stimulate Motor, Social, Cognitive and Language Skills for all Children." Parents, teachers, and other professionals will learn, through play, a large variety of games that stimulate brain development and include children with special needs.</p>	<p>Contact Maureen Bennie maureen.aaci@shaw.ca 1-866-724-2224 or visit www.autismawarenesscentre.com</p>
<p>Wednesday, March 7th 6:30 to 8:30 pm Reach Ladner #3 3800 72nd street, east ladner V4K 3N2</p>	<p>Parent workshop: Social Skills & the Hidden Curriculum Presented by Pam Collins, Reach Child and Youth Development Society. Social skills are the foundation of connection. Everyone will have a different level of social activity that feels right for them, but regardless, each person will need to develop a base set of skills to interact appropriately with their peers. Saying please and thank you is just the beginning. Participants will gain an understanding of the basics of social interactions as well as the Hidden Curriculum - the rules of social behaviour that often are acquired by feeling socially awkward. Often our children who think differently need to be taught about these hidden rules explicitly. Cost \$10</p>	<p>To register contact Carol at 604-946-6622 ext.343 or at caroly@reachdevelopment.org</p>
<p>FRIDAY & SATURDAY MARCH 30 & 31 9:00 am to 3:30 pm SFU harbour centre 515 west hastings vancouver</p>	<p>Emotion Management, Relationships, Healthy Sexuality for Individuals with Asperger's Syndrome. Day 1 will elaborate on strategies to improve the social and sexual skills of individuals with AS. Topics include: Friendship; Emotions, ("Mind Reading" software, how to read emotions of the face, expressing emotions related to sexuality); Communication (verbal and non verbal, Theory of Mind); Sexual behaviour; Intimacy; and Interpersonal relationships in different contexts. Day 2 presentation explains why children and adults with Asperger's syndrome are more prone to develop mood disorders and explains strategies that can help individuals learn about and manage emotions. Cost \$200 Bursaries available.</p>	<p>Register online or download a registration form at www.actcommunity.net</p> <p>for more info contact 604-205-5467 – toll-free 1-866-939-5188 or email info@actcommunity.net</p>

Fundraising news.



On October 17th, 2011 Reach was presented with a donation of \$50,000 from the Tsawwassen Boundary Bay Lions Club towards their project to build a new child development centre in Ladner "We know how important it is for children of all abilities to be able to become active members of their communities and we are very proud to be able to contribute to Reach's campaign," said Steve Dane, President of the Tsawwassen Boundary Bay Lions Club, "We look forward to working with them over the next four years and beyond." Thank you Lions for your generous donation!



Reach Executive Director Renie D'Aquila (left) and Foundation Chair Irene Forcier (right) accept a cheque for \$1,000 for Reach's building project from Delta Cable Marketing Manager Tannis Goodfellow & Regional Manager Wayne Rothenberger.



TOOBS service clubs continue to support Reach. In January president Greg Watts visited Reach preschool and presented Reach with a cheque for \$1,000 towards the capital campaign.

ROCKIN' for REACH benefit concert March 31st.

Come join us and bring your friends for a great night of dancing to the rockin' sounds of Vancouver's legendary musicians. Rocking for Reach: A benefit concert and dance for Reach Child and Youth Development Society with rock/blues band Incognito and guests Jerry Doucette and Ken Boychuk. For ages 19 and over. Saturday, March 31, 2012, at KinVillage Community Centre 5430 10th Avenue Tsawwassen. Doors open 7pm. Tickets \$20 or \$25 at the door. Tickets available at Videoland Tsawwassen and Ladner or at the front desk of Reach at #3 3800 72nd Street in East Ladner.

Sponsored by The Kinsmen Club of Ladner/Tsawwassen, Century Group, Envision Financial, Thrifty's Foods, Delta Cable and the South Delta Leader newspaper.

The event will also feature appetizers courtesy of Thrifty's Foods Tsawwassen, cash bar, a 50/50 draw, and a silent 'ROCKTION' with rock n' roll goodies to bid on. All proceeds from this event will go towards Reach's project to build a new child development centre in the heart of Ladner. For more information call 604-946-6622. Hope to see you there!

McHappy Days are here again on May 2nd.

Mark your calendars for paying a visit to McDonalds Restaurants on Wed. May 2nd McHappy Day. Ladner and Tsawwassen McDonald's restaurants will once again donate proceeds from the sale of McMuffins, Happy Meals & Big Macs to Reach. Volunteers are needed for two hour shifts to assist with a day of fun activities, balloon animals, face painting and more. To sign up contact Tom at (604) 946-6622 ex.372.

THANK YOU for donating in 2011!

Thank you to all of the individuals and businesses who contributed to the "Building for Children Together" capital campaign and to our programs in 2011. We had an wonderful response to our winter campaign mail-out appeal. Your contributions will make a real difference in the lives of children with special needs and in the community, now and into the future!

To make a donation or find ways you can help, contact Tom Gies at 604-946-6622 ext. 372 or email tomg@reachdevelopment.org



"BELIEVING IN POTENTIAL"

#3-3800 72nd Street
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www.reachdevelopment.org

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