

"Believing in Potential"

Delta Association for Child Development

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Delta Association for Child Development 2007 Family Satisfaction Survey Results

Thank you very much for taking the time to answer the questions in DACD's 2007 Family Satisfaction Survey. This year we received 104 surveys back from families, and the feedback is very positive.

- 91% of the families said their child is benefiting from our programs.
- 91% of the families said the programs are well organized and efficient in delivering the service.
- 91% of the families said the programs design fits well with their needs.
- 90% of the families said they are satisfied with the services they are receiving.
- 90% of the families said DACD staff working with them is well qualified to deliver the programs.

On the other hand, only 53% of the families said that our programs are well publicized and easy for them to find out. DACD has been working on this challenge of increasing public awareness of our programs since 2006. A comprehensive communication plan is being developed to address this issue and the Board of Directors is considering a name change for the Association as one aspect of this plan. We'd like to thank you for identifying this critical need, and we appreciate your patience while we continue to develop and implement our communication plan. Five lucky families who returned their surveys had their names drawn and they have received London Drugs gift card prizes. Congratulations to winning families!

Thank you again for your feedback and comments. We encourage you to speak to our staff, management, or Board at any time with ideas, comments or any concerns that may arise. Your input assists us in continuing to improve our services to children and families. The results of our surveys together with other feedback we receive throughout the year are analyzed and new goals are set for future years. This data is built into DACD's annual Outcome Report, and discussed with the Board of Directors and shared with our membership at our Annual General Meeting in September.

Should you have any comments regarding our survey, please contact Carol Ywan at caroly@deltachilddevelopment.org, or phone 946-6622, ext. 343. Should you have any comments regarding the progress and directions of the Delta Association for Child Development or would like to help in any way please contact Renie D'Aquila, Executive Director at renied@deltachilddevelopment.org or phone 946- 6622 (301).

Delta Association for Child Development

Greetings from the Board of Directors.....

One of the DACD Board of Director's responsibilities is to advocate for those we represent: the children who attend our programs and their families. We may take positions on new government directions and policies, and communicate with other agencies and different levels of government. The following was agreed upon by our board and shared with the Special Programs Department of the Delta School District.

Model schools:

The BC Ministry of Education has recently been exploring the concept of "model schools". These specialized schools for children with learning challenges such as autism are controversial and the positions of many advocacy organizations and individuals have been in the news.

Our board supports family choice in matters to do with the supports they feel are most appropriate for their children, and if model schools are the choice of parents, then we support that.

Having said that, concerns were expressed by our board that model schools might 'pull the resources' out of the existing school system thereby forcing parents to place their children in model schools, rather than offering them as a choice. Accompanying this was the concern that a reduced resource base in the regular school system could affect capacity building and professional development of regular school staff negatively impacting or eliminating their ability to include students with special needs in regular classrooms.

Another item of concern is that certain groups of students, such as students with Autism or with complex psychiatric/emotional difficulties, may not always do well socially when grouped together. Students will be away from their local neighbourhood schools and friendships might be difficult to develop and/or maintain.

Nevertheless, our board recognizes that many students with different types of special needs can benefit from early, specialized, intense supports tailored to their individual profiles.

So, as a board, we are neither for nor against model schools: we support effective programs and parent choice.

We welcome feedback on this or any other issue.

Thank you,
Marcia McCafferty, Board President, DACD

Marcia is a mother of two teenage boys, both of whom currently attend DSS in Ladner. Her younger son has Autism, and he has taken part in a number of the programs at DACD, starting with the Infant Development Program and DCDC preschool. She is a bookkeeper for her family business.



***The only difference
between stumbling
blocks and stepping-
stones is the way in
which we use them***

Unknown

2007 InfoFair was a Great Success



The 2007 InfoFair held on Saturday, March 31 at Cougar Canyon Elementary School in North Delta was a great success. More than 120 people came by this special information fair to collect information about programs and services in their communities for their family members or for themselves.

Other than DACD, other participating organizations included Autism Community Training BC, Cerebral Palsy Association BC, Special Olympics BC, Learning Disabilities Association Surrey, Community Living BC, and many other agencies. Families that came by found this fair very helpful, offering easy access to available resources in one location.

A resource guide for youth with special needs and their families, developed by the Delta Transition Committee, was given out at the 2007 InfoFair. If you were unable to attend the InfoFair and are interested in the resource guide please send your request to DACD at info@deltachilddevelopment.org, or call 604-946-6622, ext. 300.

Delta Association for Child Development (DACD) wishes to announce the transfer of the Family Place Program and the Kindergarten Readiness Program to The Boys and Girls Club Community Services of Delta/Richmond Effective March 31st, 2007

DACD will continue to focus on services specific to children with special needs. As service liaisons we will continue to maintain a role in visiting the Family Place programs on a regular basis to offer our expertise in identifying and supporting children with developmental needs.

Ladner Family Resource Centre (a program of the Boys and Girls Club Community Services of Delta/Richmond) will assume operation and management of the Kindergarten Readiness programs and the Family Place drop-in programs.

Delta Association for Child Development has been proud and honoured to offer the Family Place and Kindergarten readiness programs and would like to thank our partners and community friends for their generous support in making these programs a vital and successful service to families in the Delta community:

- Deltassist
- Ladner United Church and Jarvis Elementary School for donation of space and facilities
- McDonald's Restaurant Ladner for donation of snacks
- Delta Public Health for monthly visits from Public Health nurses
- Delta Dental Health for dental screening and presentations
- Westcoast Childcare Resource and Referral outreach toy and book lending libraries
- Safeway food donations
- Rita Thiek, program volunteer

For more information please contact Boys & Girls Club Community Services of Delta/Richmond

Federal budget announcement: Security of a Child With a Severe Disability

An important consideration for parents and grandparents of a child with a severe disability is how best to ensure financial security when they are no longer able to provide support. The March 16th Budget announcement creates a Registered Disabilities Savings Plan with the following characteristics: The creation of a Disability Savings Plan, a Disability Savings Grant and a Disability Savings Bond.

The Disability Savings Bond should have the following characteristics:

- \$200,000 lifetime limit
- anyone can contribute to this savings plan
- no annual limits on contributions
- no limits or restrictions on what the savings can be used for or when they can be used

A group called PLAN had been working to have the Disability Savings plan adopted into the federal budget, and on March 16th it was announced that the RDSP will come into effect in early 2008. Check PLAN's website for more information and how you can advocate to ensure the federal government meets your needs and for additional information on the Disability Savings Grant and a Disability Savings Bond.

- http://www.planinstitute.ca/ezone/ezone_dsp_march1.html
- Other government websites to gain information about the Disability Savings Plan are:
- <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2007/bp/bpc3e.html#disability>
- <http://www.fin.gc.ca/fin-eng.html> (Budget 2007)

The Unwritten Rules of Social Behaviour

.....by Camille Netherton

I recently read the book “The Unwritten Rules of Social Behaviour” by Dr. Temple Grandin and Sean Barron. It is a wonderful book, not only for the information about social skills but for the detailed insight the reader gains into the minds of the authors. Both Temple and Sean are candid about how their Autism affected their views of social relationships.

Temple states she sees her brain like a computer. She thinks in pictures and stores her memory and skills in categories much like a computer uses folders and sub-folders. Temple is logical and scientific in her approach to social skills. Emotions are less important to her, and her difficulties arose when she tried to understand the emotional side of social relationships.

Sean is emotional. He reacts emotionally, based on his own moral code and sense of fairness. His main difficulties arose when he tried to understand the nuances of the social scene, grey areas, rules that weren't hard and fast and when society's rules were inconsistent with his interpretation.

What struck me time and again as I read their honest, open descriptions

of how difficult it is to pinpoint the “unwritten rules” was how I know people exactly like this—people who don't have the diagnosis of Autism. It reinforced my belief that we are all more similar than dissimilar. Kathi Snow (“Disability is Natural”) talks about how we are all a bowl of red apples and the person with disabilities is a green apple. He is more like the red apples than he is dissimilar. He has a stem, a peel, crunch and core. His dissimilarity is slight and in the big picture, he hardly differs at all.

Reading about social relationships made me think of us “neurotypicals” (NTs as people within the Autism spectrum often refer to us) and our social relationships with others in our community. By and large we expect everyone to fit into our way of life. As NTs we made social rules that exclude those who are not like us. If we want to change the rules, to be completely inclusive, we have to be diligent and never settle for anything less than everything.

We have come a long way with integration and “politically correct language”, however, when I'm out in various public environments I still see a lot of “us” and “them” mentality. I often encounter ignorance, un-

easiness and just plain fear from the general population. I try to educate and ease my views into the conversation but in so many ways I think there are a lot of red apples out there that are far more “green” than the people I've known who have a diagnosed disability.

We have come a long way from the days of Temple and Sean's childhood where institutionalization was the norm—we have to keep our eyes on the successes and celebrate and repeat them often. We have to move away from “political correctness” and just do what's right, all the time. We need to educate, educate, and educate some more.

Lets be the generation who utilizes diagnosis as a springboard for support and action rather than for labeling. Remember person first language in our meetings and in our daily lives. Lets be the generation that shows the world how to value each individual for being an individual. Lets make things easier for others because it feels great when someone makes things easier for us. Lets show respect and expect it in return. Lets make our social relationships include all of our society.

WANTED: For the Group Respite Program...

Good quality board games for ages 6-16. Please ensure that all pieces are in place and/or are easily replaceable. Games like: Cranium, Clue, Life, Scrabble, Boggle, Mousetrap or something that was your child's favourite could give hours of fun to many.

**Games can be dropped off at reception,
Monday to Friday between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm.**

How to Plan an Inclusive Birthday Party

1. Think about your goal- I like to start everything with this idea. What is my goal? For a child's party my goal might be, for my child to have fun and celebrate the day of their birth with her friends. It might also be for my child to learn how to be a gracious host and to be inclusive of all her friends.
2. Don't invite too many children- this is good advice for any party. While some children love the hustle and bustle of a big party, the noise and movement of a large crowd can overwhelm some children. Stick to a small gathering with a few close friends.
3. Discuss for success – before you plan the activities, food and schedule, discuss with all parents how you can best support their child. Are there allergies to be taken into consideration? Maybe a child in a wheelchair can't go bowling, maybe they can. Ask!
4. Be specific in your invitation- it's always best to give more information than just drop-off and pick-up times. Give a party agenda. That way kids who can't stay for the whole party know when to come for their favourite event. Example: "Arrive at noon. We'll eat by 12:15 and are having hot dogs, plain chips and lemonade. We are playing 1 game of cooperative musical chairs and one game of "find the clue". Then we'll have cake and ice cream and open presents. If you can't stay for the party, please pick up your child by 2 pm."
5. Keep it short and sweet – 2-3 hours is plenty of time for most children, but give the option of leaving early or arriving late. Maybe one child has difficulty with games, but really likes present time. Maybe another child might not be able to stay for cake but could come for lunch. Remember your goal. Was it for friends to celebrate? Then that can look different for each friend.
6. Visuals, visuals, visuals-This is not only going to help the party run smoothly for the children, but the adults as well. Visuals help with activity transitions and help build predictability into the whole event. Use a piece of poster board and lay out pictures of the events of the day. You can use Polaroid photographs, cut pictures out of magazines, or draw the pictures yourself. If you can, offer individual ones to each guest as well. This is a fun project to do ahead of time with the birthday child. It also helps him or her learn to think of others... how great is that?
7. Sensory systems- Remember we all have different sensory needs. Some might like it bright and sunny, or cool and cloudy. Music might play havoc with little ears, as might smells and things like balloons. Again, this is where your pre-planning and speaking with adults ahead of time will be invaluable. Maybe you can offer a quiet place for kids who need to take short breaks from the party, or offer a variety of games to include everyone's favourite. Think Flexible!
8. Have fun!- Remember your goal of celebration. Did you know that many children with disabilities might never be invited to a birthday party? Think about all the children in your child's class and think about encouraging inclusion. It really just takes a bit of planning and everyone can have a lot of fun! Teach your child to celebrate life!

Parents: Looking for information specific to your family and child with special needs? Sign up with the DACD Parent Network Weekly Email Newsletter. The newsletter shares up to date information, government funding and policy changes, and links to related websites.

To sign up or for more information contact Si Stainton, Parent Network Coordinator at sistainton@dccnet.com or call 604-946-6622 ext. 359.

May is **SPEECH** and **HEARING** Month!

Q-Tips: To Use or Not To Use. That is The Question.....by Kathryn Dawlings, SLP



What should we do to keep our ears and our children's ears clean? The age-old advice of "Put nothing smaller than your elbow in your ears" seems too extreme to be true. But it is.

Earwax is good! The ears are self-cleaning if you allow natural processes to do their work. Special glands in the ear canal produce earwax whose job is to trap dust and dirt particles to keep them from reaching the eardrum. In a healthy ear, this wax and debris is naturally propelled outward along the keratin layer of the ear canal to the outer ear. Earwax and the keratin layer help protect the ear canal from trauma and infection by maintaining the surface pH. Earwax also serves as a temporary water repellent along the skin of the ear canal. The absence of earwax can result in dry and itchy ears.

Earwax is produced only in the outer 1/3 of the ear canal, not deep in the ear near the eardrum. Attempting to remove wax with a cotton swab can push the wax deeper and deeper into the canal and cause a blockage, scraping the keratin along the way making it even more difficult for the wax to come out on its own. Over time, impacted earwax dries out and collects debris and dead skin tissue which creates a hard mass that is very difficult to break up.

Wax blockage is one of the most common causes of hearing loss. A hearing loss of 30-40 decibels can be created making it difficult to hear the people speaking around you. Even a tiny piece of wax on the eardrum can cause the tensor tympani muscle to go into spasm, causing a "roaring" or "buzzing" sound in the ear. This degree of hearing loss can have huge impacts on young children's language development.

So, how can we keep our ears and our children's ears clean? Ideally, we shouldn't have to. However, if you want to clean your ears, use a damp cloth over a finger and gently wipe the external ear, but do not insert anything into the ear canal. If you are concerned that you or your child has impacted wax blocking the ear canal, talk to your physician.

***We shall never
know all the
good that a simple
smile can do***

Mother Teresa

And save your Q-tips for art projects!

This information was gathered in part from the following on-line article: "*But What's Wrong With Q-Tips®?*" by Max S. Chartrand, Ph.D., *Health & Human Services/Research in Communicative Disorders*.

Check it out at:

www.audiologyonline.com/articles/pf_article_detail.asp?article_id=407

Mark your calendars...

1st Tuesday of each month 6:30 - 8:30 pm	F.O.R.C.E. - Society for Kids Mental Health <i>Presented by: Pacific Community Resources (Newton)</i> <i>Registration contact: Sheri@surrey_force_group_@yahoo.ca or call 878-3400</i>	PCRS #114 - 134 76th Avenue Surrey, BC
May 2 - 23 3:30 - 5:00 pm	Pre-Teen Cool Cuisine <i>Presented by: Camp Alexandra</i> <i>Registration contact: 535-0015 (space is limited)</i> <i>Cost: \$25/4 weeks (includes food)</i>	Camp Alexandra Crescent Beach
May 10 and 17th 6:30 - 9:30 pm	Positive Parenting <i>Presented by: Camille Netherton</i> <i>Registration contact: Elysa 946-6622 ext 312 or elysap@deltachilddevelopment.org</i>	Surrey Conference Centre Room #1 9260 140th Street Surrey, BC
June 8, 2007	Relationship Development Intervention <i>Presented by: Steven Gutstein</i> <i>Registration contact: Shaunna Villareal (villareal@rdiconnect.com) 713-838-1362 ext 122</i> <i>Cost: by May 14, \$275.00 - by June 4, \$300.00</i>	SFU Segal Graduate School of Business

Summer Camps... it's almost that time of year again. Throughout the month of April more and more summer camps will begin to post their information. Most camps are in the beginning stages of assembling dates and times and costs so please check their websites for more information. Most camps begin registration in May so check them out so as not to be disappointed!

Try Googling Summer Camps+Bc+special needs.

Also check out these websites:

www.mysummercamps.com

http://dmoz.org/recreational/camps/special_needs/ (a directory where you click different boxes and it searches for you)

www.ourkidsmedia.com/camp.directory.cfm (click on specifics and this directory will find camps across Canada)

Zajac Ranch	Who: a camp for children with serious/chronic illnesses or disabilities age 7-17 When: various times throughout the summer retreats offered at different times throughout the year Cost: varies, please contact for information	Stave Lake Mission, BC email: infor@zajac.com www.zajaranch.com 739-0444
Whitecrow Village	Who: for children affected with FASD and all of the individuals who are important in that child's life (one of the most inclusive camps, with a true-wraparound philosophy) When: throughout the year Cost: varies	Whitecrow Village will set up camp in any area where they are invited to come email: whitecrow@telus.net www.whitecrowvillage.org
A Rolling Summer Camp for FASD Awareness	Who: anyone can come! We are engaging Canada in a cross country horseback ride! When: times vary, check website for more information Cost: we are asking people to join in bringing awareness of FASD to the general population. You can set up events or do fundraising, check out website for more information	Places vary, check website for more information www.faslink.org/ride01.htm email: fasdrive@gmail.com (519) 869-8026 (506) 732-9092

SPEECH INTO ACTION!

Generous Donations Bring the *Gift of Speech* to 8 more Delta Children

Thanks to the many community donations, The **Gift of Speech** campaign met and surpassed its goal of raising enough funds to provide speech therapy to 8 additional children from the waiting list at the Delta Association for Child Development.

“We are very thankful to our many donors that made this possible,” said Renie D’Aquila, the Association’s Executive Director. *“It was thanks to our caring community of individuals, service clubs, schools, and local companies that we are now able to provide specialized speech therapy treatment and life skills to more children.”*

With over \$19,000 of new funding generated from the **Gift of Speech** Campaign the waitlist for speech therapy of 30 children will be reduced down to 22. Children with speech language delays receive an assessment before their individual therapy plan is developed. Speech therapy services are generally delivered on a weekly basis in a one on one setting, and at times in groups. Parent involvement is critical to ensuring the child’s therapy strategies are practiced in other settings like the child’s home.



The goal for next year is to remove 12 more children from the waiting list through the *Gift of Speech* Annual fundraising campaign.

Safeway’s “The Power of \$3” Raises \$4,536 in Tsawwassen

During the month of March, Safeway had their largest corporate fundraiser of the year – the Safeway We Care Coupon Book campaign.

The popular coupon books raised over \$1.27 million across Canada and \$369,426 in BC. Tsawwassen Safeway contributed with \$4,538 to the *Delta Association for Child Development*, their selected charity for the campaign.

“We were very happy with the community’s response to our coupon book sale,” said Peggy Graham, Chair of the Tsawwassen Safeway We Care Committee. To date, Tsawwassen Safeway has raised a total of \$8,202 for DACD through three campaigns starting in December 2006.

Thank you Safeway for once again supporting The *Delta Association for Child Development* and for joining us in Believing in Potential!



DACD staff were at the Tsawwassen Safeway on March 10th encouraging customers to purchase coupon books and raising awareness about services and programs.

YES! I will give to the Gift of Speech

Here is my gift of:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 for 1 week of therapy | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 for 2 weeks of therapy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$180 for 1 month of therapy | <input type="checkbox"/> \$360 for two months of therapy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$450 for 10 sessions of therapy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |

Please charge my gift to my credit card.

I would like to Give the *Gift of Speech* to a Delta Child all year round.

I am enclosing 12 post dated cheques in the amount of \$ _____.

Credit Card: _____ Exp. _____

Signature: _____

Please make your cheque payable to:

Delta Association for Child Development



Delta Association for Child Development

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www.deltachilddevelopment.org

“Believing in Potential”

since 1959

You will receive a charitable tax receipt for the full amount of your donation and an honorary membership in the Delta Association for Child Development. Your personal information will not be shared with other organizations.