

"Believing in Potential"

*A Newsletter of the
Delta Association
for Child Development*



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Delta Association for Child Development 2007 CARF Accreditation Results

The Delta Association for Child Development (DACD) proudly announces that it has been successfully awarded the CARF 3-Year Accreditation for its Community Services: Child and Youth Services, and Community Services: Respite Services.



On May 2, 2007 CARF Surveyors Marge Watson and Virginia Baeten, (pictured center), celebrated with DACD's Executive Director Renie D'Aquila (far left), Manager of Program Development Carol Ywan, and Board of Directors President Marcia McCafferty (far right) the completion of the 3 day long survey of programs and services at The Delta Association for Child Development.

***On June 20th DACD was awarded it's 3-year accreditation.
See full story on page 3.***

“Believing In Potential” is published quarterly: Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. It is mailed free of charge to the membership of the Delta Association for Child Development.

If you would like to become a member of the Delta Association for Child Development please call 604-946-6622 ext. 0 for more information. Membership costs \$20 and includes a mail-out of our quarterly newsletter.

If you would like to unsubscribe to The “Believing In Potential” newsletter please call 604-946-6622 ext. 0 or email-info@deltachilddevelopment.org and write “newsletter” in the subject line.

Submissions are welcome and accepted from members or non-members. Children’s writing or artwork submissions are welcome. Please include your contact information with your submission.

Submissions can be emailed to cnidoski@deltachilddevelopment.org with “newsletter” in the subject line, faxed to 604-946-6622 with attention: Newsletter on the cover sheet (Please do not fax artwork), mailed or dropped off at the front desk. For more information about the “Believing In Potential” newsletter please call 604-946-6622 ext.337.



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President’s Message.....

What Does It Mean to be a Member of the Board?

Hi, let me introduce myself: my name is Marcia McCafferty and I am the current president of the Board of Directors at DACD. I am also a part-time bookkeeper at our family business and my husband John and I have two boys, ages 17 and 14. My younger son has high-functioning Autism, which in a nutshell is how I ended up involved with the Board of Directors. He and the rest of my family received such great and timely supports from the association that I just wanted to give back in any way that I could, and so here I am.

Joining the Board doesn’t require any particular expertise beyond what you may very well already have. Our board can have up to twelve members. Who are we? Right now we have two foster moms, a retired banker, and a school teacher, among others. We will be publishing profiles of the people currently involved, so that you can get to know us, but also to show how we need a wide variety of people to be involved in our Board to maintain it’s healthy, broad base of input. We come from varied backgrounds, but we share a love of kids and a commitment to helping children with special needs reach their potential.

One of the functions of the Board is to set policy for the organization, which is then implemented through the hard work of our Executive Director and our staff. The ED reports back to the Board on developments both within the organization and also in the broader community. Do you have to fundraise? Not unless you feel like it! We have monthly meetings, none during the summer.

We are also currently in the process of setting up a Foundation, which will require more board members with specialized skills such as lawyers, accountants, investment managers, and people with fundraising backgrounds. The job of the Foundation will be to raise money for DACD. Are you someone who could be part of this new Foundation, or do you know a good candidate who might be interested?

It’s a great way to be part of something wonderful. **Think about it!**



**Make a difference
in a child’s life -
Make a difference in
your community.
Join the DACD
Board of Directors.**

*For information on joining our Board of Directors call
Renie D’Aquila, DACD Executive Director,
at 604-946-6622 ext. 301.*

Front page story continued.....

The Delta Association for Child Development awarded the CARF 3-Year accreditation for its Community Services: Child and Youth Services, and Community Services: Respite

This is the second consecutive Three-Year Accreditation outcome that The Delta Association for Child Development (DACD) has been awarded from the international accrediting commission.

This accreditation outcome represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the standards established by CARF.

CARF, (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities), is an independent, non-profit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.

To be awarded the Three-Year Accreditation outcome DACD underwent a rigorous peer review process and demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable and accountable.

In a letter to the DACD Executive Director Renie D'Aquila, CARF President Brian Brown wrote, "This achievement is an indication of your organization's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the persons served. Ser-

vices, personnel, and documentation clearly indicate an established pattern of practice excellence."

Comments in the DACD CARF summary report include:

"The organization demonstrates a commitment to capacity building for families and day-care providers and ongoing corporate citizenship."

"The strong sense of responsiveness to families results in family-centered services that are provided in a timely and effective manner."

"The service plan for the person served is very detailed and complete, and it gives an outstanding overview of the child's situation. Case notes are detailed and easy to understand. It is apparent that a great deal of thought goes into the development and implementation of the plan."

When several service providers are involved, it appears the services are well coordinated and seamless."

"DACD is at the forefront of best practices in British Columbia, especially in the area of services for children with autism spectrum disorders."

DACD Executive Director Renie D'Aquila was very pleased with the CARF results, and the outcome of the accreditation report; "Accreditation is important because it provides the community, government, and our donors with a level of assurance around the quality of our services. We are thrilled that an external international accreditation body, CARF has audited our association's governance, administrative and service delivery practices over a three day period and has determined that DACD definitely meets the required standards. DACD's mission is to exist as a quality community resource for the optimal development of children from infancy onwards. To achieve this mandate we have to remain committed to continuous quality improvement and always be looking for new and innovative ways to be more efficient, effective and accountable."



DACD News.....Honouring Donors for “Believing in Potential”

Did you know that over \$200,000 of DACD’s annual budget last year came from donors? Without the generous contributions made annually by these community groups, businesses, and individuals, your programs and services at DACD would be seriously impacted. To honour our donors we hosted our annual Donor Recognition Luncheon on March 8th at our main facility in Ladner. Approximately 30 guests showed up to chat with the staff and administration of DACD, and to meet and greet one another and share stories. Guests were treated to a healthy lunch, a tour of our Ladner facility and description of programs and services, our slide show and video of services and programs in action, and a very special thank-you song sung by the DCDC preschool children. Mayor Lois Jackson attended and was honoured for her ongoing municipal support of DACD and the attention she has given, along with all of our other donors, to the needs of families with children in the community.

Again, thank you to those who so generously give from the heart to make a difference in the lives of children with special needs. As the DACD Executive Director Renie D’Aquila stated in her address, quoting Margaret Mead, “Never doubt that a small dedicated group of individuals can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has”.



DACD Hosts It’s Annual Donor Recognition Day

If you would like to make a donation to the Delta Association for Child Development and join our list of donors in making a difference in the lives of children with special needs, please call Funding Development Associate Ana Arciniega at 604-946-6622 ext. 338 or email funding@deltachilddevelopment.org

DACD Staff Updates..... Welcome new Staff

Karen Field, Behavioural Support Consultant DACD Positive Behavioural Support Program

Karen brings 20 years of experience in the Community Living sector, including positions as Program Manager for group homes and day programs for adults with special needs.

Welcome Karen!



Jeff Prasad, Behavioural Support Consultant DACD Positive Behavioural Support

Jeff has a diploma in Early Childhood Development and a Bachelor of Education degree. He has experience developing and implementing programming in various settings as well as providing behavioural support for children within a wide range of ages and diagnoses.

Welcome Jeff!



Ana Arciniega DACD Funding Development Associate

Ana brings 18 years of experience in marketing, communications, public relations, event coordination and fundraising, 11 of those in the non-profit sector. She is also very active in the community with many volunteer interests, including her two sons' schools.

Welcome Ana!



.....Farewell Diane

Diane Smid, Consultant for the Supported Child Development Program

Diane is leaving DACD after over 25 years of affiliation with the association. In the early eighties Diane did one of her first practicums at DCDC when it was still in the old church in the heart of Ladner. Later she was the first teacher for the Penny Sunshine Program. She then sat on the DACD Board of Directors for a brief period of time. Diane came back to work for DACD around 1994 after her youngest son went to grade one. She then started to work part time at DCDC preschool after completing her Special Needs requirements and doing her practicum at DCDC preschool. In addition to these positions Diane has held positions in DACD’s LEAP preschool program, IDP Playgroup, and Kindergarten Readiness Program. The next transition for Diane was to work as a Supported Child Development Consultant, which she has done until the present.

Diane is leaving her job in anticipation of new adventures as their family is building a home in Sun Peaks ski resort near Kamloops BC. Diane will be living part time up in Sun Peaks as well as having an address in Ladner.

All of the staff at DACD wish Diane a fond farewell. Her dedication, and caring and gentle nature has made an impact on many, especially the many children she has taught and worked with over the years.

Thank you for your many years of service Diane. Best wishes!



Parenting Tips.....

Maintaining a Schedule in a Summer Without Schedules

Some welcome the spontaneity of a summer without schedules. But for some children with special needs the lack of a routine can cause confusion and anxiety. Building predictability into your day is an important aspect to emotional management.



So how can you stick with a routine when summer activities change day by day? Here's some simple tips and ideas you can choose from to help build predictability into your child's summer holidays – even while vacationing!

- **Maintain the order of your child's wake-up and bedtime tasks (Wake-up brush teeth/get dressed/ eat breakfast).**

It doesn't matter what order the tasks are in, just make sure the order stays the same day to day.

- **Schedule a "Special Activity" time each day at the same time.**

It can be just a half hour, or up to 3 hours – whichever is reasonable for both you and your child. Make sure the activity is one that you can do anywhere, whether you are at the beach, on the road, or visiting relatives out of town; chapter books, puzzles (portable), board games (travel size), or listening to stories or music on tape or CD.

- **Schedule 'unpredictability' onto a visual schedule.**

If your child uses a visual schedule make a picture for unpredictable times. Keep your child's consistent day-by-day tasks in place, and add new activities each day they are decided upon. If you do not decide on an activity between regular tasks, draw a star or happy face to signify "something fun", or "something different"

- **Have 'closed choices' of activities ready**

Closed choices are choices of specific things or activities without interpretation. For example, instead of saying "What do you want to do today?", ask your child, "Do you want to draw at the kitchen table, or go for a walk to the park?" Make sure choices are activities your child likes, ones that you can follow-through on, and stated in a level of language your child understands.

- **Prepare ahead with a 'Change of Plans' Plan**

The movie you were all excited to see is sold-out, or your play-date cancelled. What do you do? Having a "Change of Plans" plan at the ready (also known as "Plan B") can help prepare you and your child for these emotional zingers. Prepare some generic activities you can pull out of your back pocket to offer your child. (Remember to offer closed choices).



WE WANT YOUR STORIES!

Do you have a personal story about your child with special needs, or about being a parent or caregiver of a child with special needs? If you would like to share your story with other parents and families, we would love to publish it. The DACD "*Believing In Potential*" newsletter accepts submissions from parents, caregivers, siblings, support workers, or others on experiences they have had and have learned from. Photos are welcome.

Kids: Do you have some artwork, self-made comics, or stories that you would like to have published in our newsletter? Send them in!

Written submissions should be no longer than 350 words. Please include your name and contact information for verification and permission to print/publish. (Anonymous submissions also accepted).

Parent or child newsletter submissions can be mailed, or dropped off at the DACD front desk.

You can email your submissions to cnidoski@deltachilddevelopment.org and write "newsletter" in the subject line, or fax your submissions to Attn: DACD Newsletter at 604-946-6223 (please do not fax artwork).

Community News.....

The New Provincial Outreach Program for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (POPFASD)

In February 2006, the Prince George School District responded to a Ministry of Education “submission for expression of interest”, regarding the implementation of a new provincial outreach program for FASD, and in March were informed they would be the host district for the new program. In September 2006 the New Provincial Outreach Program for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, now known as POPFASD, was formed.

The mandate of the program is to provide support and learning opportunities for teachers of students with FASD. Specifically, they provide training and in-services which increase the understanding of the educational implication of FASD, help School Districts build capacity for successfully meeting the needs of learners with FASD, synthesize and share research and practice, and liaise with other Ministries.

Currently they are giving in-services, attending in-services, liaising with other agencies, and supporting teachers through eLearning modules, liaising with District Partners, consulting with FASD specialists, and developing their website for people to readily access information about the program.

Hosted by the School District No. 57 (Prince George) and located in the Center for Learning Alternatives, they are funded by the Ministry of Education, and supported and directed by a multi-district Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from 7 school districts. These representatives are aligned with 5 Health/MCFD regions: Fraser (which includes Delta, Surrey and Langley), Vancouver Island, Vancouver Coastal, Interior and Northern.

For more information about POPFASD visit their website at www.fasdoutreach.ca

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Moving Notice

The British Columbia Association for Community Living (BCACL), BC Self Advocacy Foundation (BC SAF) and the Family Support Institute (FSI) have moved their offices to 227 6th Street, New Westminster, BC V3L 3A5. For more information call 604-777-9100.

DACD Fall Programs – Registration on now.....

Delta Child Development Centre Preschool (DCDC) and the Delta School Readiness Program (DSRP)

DCDC and DSRP are inclusive preschool programs offering children a stimulating environment with opportunities for social, emotional, cognitive and creative development emphasizing the individual child’s awareness of his or her self, peers, family and society. Both maintain a family-centered approach whereby parents and teachers work together to best address the needs of each individual child. DCDC and DSRP are accepting registrations for the 2007 - 2008 preschool year for children with typical needs and children who require extra supports. Children may be registered for morning or afternoon classes for either 2, 3 or 5 days a week. If you are interested in enrolling your child please call DCDC in South Delta at 604-946-6622 ext. 308 or DSRP in North Delta at 604-596-0106.



Kids' Friendship Club

Kids Friendship Club (KFC) is a place where children with special needs can play, socialize, share feelings and experiences, and learn more about social skills together. It is also a place where parents can come together to talk, relax, and relate. Our goal is to help strengthen your child’s social skills through gentle guiding, coaching, and supporting their social interaction within the group.

Kids Friendship Club is accepting registrations for their Fall 2007 program for boys and girls with special needs, ages 11 to 14. The program runs from September 25th to November 27th, on Tuesday evenings from 6:30- pm – 8:30 pm at the North Delta location of the Delta Association for Child Development, 11425 84th Ave. The cost of the program is \$630 per child. To register call PBS Program Manager Elysa Philip at 604-946-6622

Mark your calendars...

July 21, 2007	<p><i>The Child With Autism in the Family: Family Stressors and Siblings Needs.</i> Presented by: Sandra Harris, Ph.D. Executive Director of the Developmental Disabilities Center, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Hosted by: ACT—Autism Community Training and The Consortium for the Advancement of Child Health—SFU Phone 604-205-5467 or toll free 1-866 939-5188</p>	<p>Fletcher Challenger Theatre, Harbour Centre Campus, SFU 515 Hastings Street Vancouver, BC Cost: 85—\$175</p>
August 13th - 23rd, 2007	<p><i>Multi-Sensory Math Tutoring</i> An interactive remedial program using a hands-on approach to build basic math concepts for students, including those with learning disabilities, in grades 3 to 7. Phone 604-591-5156 or visit www.ldafs.org</p>	<p>Learning Disabilities Association-Fraser South Chapter #201-13766 72nd Avenue Surrey, BC (above Cost Capital Savings)</p>
June 13th - Aug 31st, 2007 Mon/Wed/Fri 6:30pm to 8:30 pm	<p><i>Boredom Busters at Semiahmoo Family Place</i> Programs for children ages 4-8 and over. Weekly themes and activities, including family games and movie nights, arts and crafts, storytime, music and more. Drop-in, with Parent participation. Phone 778-322-1222</p>	<p>Semiahmoo Family Place #13-15515 24th Avenue Surrey, BC Cost: \$5.00 per child/ \$10 max per family</p>
Sept 15th 10am - 2pm	<p><i>Delta Association for Child Development</i> Annual General Meeting and Family Fun Day (SEE INSERT FOR DETAILS) Call to register 604-946-6622 ext. 300</p>	<p>#3-3800 72nd Street Delta, BC V4K 3N2</p>
Sept 20th and 21st, 2007 9:30am - 4pm	<p><i>Trauma and Dissociation: Creative Coping</i> Presented by: Dr. Sandra Wieland, Ph.D. registered Psychologist Hosted by: MFCD A 2 day workshop that will explain the mechanism of disassociation as a response to abuse and neglect, and will provide ideas for helping children become more aware of feelings, thoughts experiences and body sensations. No fee for Foster parents in Abbotsford or Mission. Foster parents from out of area will be given a reduced rate. Phone 604-556-7000</p>	<p>Cascade Community Church 35190 Delair Road Abbotsford, BC Cost: \$15 (includes continental breakfast and lunch)</p>
Sept 28th, 2007 9:00am - 4:00pm (Registration at 8:30am)	<p><i>Raising Children Who Refuse to be Raised: How to Raise a Child to be a Successful Adult.</i> Presented by: David Ziegler, Ph. D., LMFT, LPC. Hosted by: MFCD in partnership Upper Fraser Valley Foster Parents Association Phone 604-556-7000</p>	<p>Cascade Community Church 35190 Delair Road Abbotsford, BC Cost: \$15 (Foster parents in Abbotsford/Mission) All others, \$50</p>
Oct 29, 2007 8:45am - 1:00pm	<p><i>Speaking of Kids Conference</i> Presented by: the Learning Disabilities Association for Vancouver in partnership with the Vancouver School Board Special guest Henry Winkler sharing is journey growing up with dyslexia Phone 604-873-8139</p>	<p>Killarney Secondary School 6454 Killarney Street Vancouver, BC Cost: \$45</p>



Ladner & Tsawwassen McDonald's Restaurant donation of \$8,009!!!



Tsawwassen Safeway's We Care Campaign donation



Heart of Variety Fund donation of \$6,400 towards our North Delta Play & Learn Center Toy Lending Library

Fundraising Efforts are paying off!!!

The Delta Association for Child Development is fortunate to have been recipients of many generous gifts to support the services and programs we offer to our families, with a particular emphasis on our **Therapies Reduction Program**. Here is a snapshot of the Gifts received recently:

- Ladner & Tsawwassen McDonald's Restaurant owner Steve Krawchuk selected DACD to be their charity during McHappy Day. A total of \$8,009 was raised through that effort. Thanks to our parents, staff & board members who volunteered to help during the event.
- Tsawwassen Safeway's annual We Care Campaign chose DACD as their charity and through 4 different events, and a quilt raffle sale, they have contributed close to \$10,000!! Huge thanks to Peggy Graham, Tsawwassen Safeway's We Care Chair who has gone above and beyond on our behalf.
- Heart of Variety Fund donated \$6,400 to purchase toys and books for the DACD Play and Learn Centre Toy and Book Lending Library in North Delta.
- The Delta Agricultural Society, supporters of DACD for a number of years, gave DACD a generous \$2,000 donation.
- United Entertainers, who host an annual fundraising event, selected DACD as one of their charities they support and gave DACD a gift of \$200.
- The Delta Chamber of Commerce's Annual Golf Tournament, selected DACD as their charity to support through their Beat the Pro on Hole #4. We received a donation of \$535.00.
- Many individuals and families who generously support our programs through donations!!!

THANK YOU! for *"Believing in Potential"* and making a difference in your community

Gift of Speech Update		
Therapy Programs	Total (as of April 2007)	Wait List (as of April 2007)
Therapies Case Load	80	41
Speech Language Pathology	60	21
Occupational Therapy	27	25
Physiotherapy	50	10



YES! I will like to give the Gift of Speech to a child in Delta

Here is my gift of: \$45 \$90 \$180 Other \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Postal: _____

Please charge my gift to my credit card. Visa Mastercard
Card # _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

I would like to make a MONTHLY Gift of Speech donation to a Delta child.
I am enclosing 12 post dated cheques in the amount of \$ _____.

Please make your cheques payable to: **Delta Association for Child Development**



Delta Association for Child Development
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www.deltachilddevelopment.org

"Believing in Potential"

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.