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"BELIEVING IN POTENTIAL"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REACH EDUCATION SERIES HELPS PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH FETAL ALCOHOL CONDITIONS.

Friday September 9th, 2011 is International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Day, a day that aims to further educate the public about fetal alcohol conditions and lend support to the millions living with and raising children with the diagnosis. The ninth day of the ninth month of the year was chosen for this day as a reminder that during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol.

Parenting a child with fetal alcohol related disorders can be complex and challenging. There are a variety of resources and organizations available to support families and children. In Delta, Reach Child and Youth Development Society offers the Delta Connex program which provides support to families who have children birth through 19 with a diagnosis of FASD, or related conditions. The program is a provincially funded Key Worker Service Program that addresses issues related to the diagnosis and builds on family's strengths.

Starting in October, the Reach Delta Connex program will begin offering a free monthly parent education series for parents and caregivers raising children with fetal alcohol related conditions. New workshops will take place the 1st Tuesday of each month and will cover a specific topics such as sibling rivalry and conflict resolution, understanding sensory systems and emotions, healthy sexuality, self help and daily living skills, and others.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term referring to a brain based physical disability which occurs when a fetus is exposed to alcohol. Many different diagnoses fall into under the umbrella of FASD, including A.R.N.D. or Alcohol Related Neurodevelopment Disorder. A.R.N.D. occurs at a rate of 1 in every 100 live births, a rate greater than Down Syndrome, Spina Bifida, and Cerebral Palsy combined.

FASD is a mostly invisible disability as facial features will only be present if the mother drank on days 17-21 of her pregnancy. However the effects of FASD are profound. Alcohol in the womb of a developing fetus can permanently damage the brain, central nervous system, organs and the very cells of that fetus. When a child with FASD grows, he or she may have issues related to memory, cause and effect, and impulsivity because the frontal lobe and executive functions of the brain are compromised. Ongoing education, support and training are important in managing and coping with the effects of fetal alcohol conditions.



*Formerly known as the
Delta Association for
Child Development*

The Reach Delta Connex Parent Education series starts Oct 4th with the workshop “Challenging Behaviours and Positive Parenting”. Workshops are from 10.a.m. to 2.p.m. at Reach Child and Youth Development Society #3 3800 72nd street in east Ladner. Workshops are free and free childminding will be available. To register call 604-946-6622 ext. 302 or email camillen@reachdevelopment.org To learn more about the Delta Connex program visit the Reach website at www.reachdevelopment.org

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