

Burnaby Understanding the Early Years Project



Burnaby Family Life continues to sponsor the Burnaby Understanding the Early Years (UEY) Project on behalf of the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Table – a coalition of 30 community and government agencies providing support to young children and their families in Burnaby.

The Project began in June 2007 and ends June 2010. Burnaby UEY is one of 49 federally-funded research, communication, and community mobilization initiatives of Human Resources and Social Development Canada. Detailed information about the national initiative is found at www.hrsdc.gc.ca

2009/2010, the final year of the project, has been a busy time for the Burnaby UEY Project with a number of significant achievements, including:

- ✓ Co-hosting of the first annual Child Care Provider Appreciation Event. This event, organized in collaboration with the child care sector in Burnaby and New Westminster, provided an opportunity to express appreciation to front-line child care providers for the important work they do caring for young children in our community. Planning is already underway for the second annual event in May 2010.
- ✓ Analysis of research data, including the Early Development Instrument (EDI) and Parent Interviews and Direct Assessment of Children Survey (PIDACS) collected by the school district from Kindergarten children and their families, is being used, along with the 2006 census data, to develop a profile of young children and families in Burnaby. This profile, compiled into the Burnaby ECD Mapping Report, identifies strengths and vulnerabilities by neighbourhood; it is used for strategic planning and service design.
- ✓ Hosting a series of community meetings to share the recent research findings (mentioned above) with community partners and elected representatives from all levels of government. These events provide an opportunity to build a broader understanding about the importance of early childhood development.
- ✓ Development of an array of family-friendly communication products (newsletters, door hangers, domain booklets, beach balls, etc.) designed to raise awareness about the importance of all 5 domains of development in young children. The products have been very enthusiastically received by both service providers and families.
- ✓ Support for the development of the Burnaby ECD Newcomers' Centre. This is an important new resource for refugee families with young children in Burnaby.

- ✓ Sponsor a series of workshops for parents organized by the Parent Advisory Committee of the Burnaby ECD Community Table. These workshops bring together parents to learn new skills and share their perspectives about ECD issues with the Table.

The Burnaby UEY Project presented its final report to the ECD Community Table in April 2010. The power point presentation of this report, which includes a review of both the accomplishments and challenges of the project over 3 years, is available at www.kidsinburnaby.ca

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