

**Update  
June 15, 2006**

**We are winding down our email distribution updates and going to a full newsletter format via the website, we encourage you to register as a member on our website as early as possible to receive updates and notices in lieu of this current format. Thank you!!**  
<http://www.playvictoria.org/signup.aspx>

## **News**

### **1) PROGRAM EXPANDS TO HELP KIDS GET READY FOR KINDERGARTEN**

RICHMOND - A school-based pilot program that helps preschool children get ready for kindergarten has expanded to other B.C. schools, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced today.

"Starting school is exciting, but it can also be a little bit scary," said Bond. "Parents and caregivers can make the transition easier by introducing children to the kinds of activities that students do in a kindergarten class. The Welcome to Kindergarten program is a tool families can use to help children get the best possible start in school."

Twenty-four elementary schools in six B.C. school districts are participating in the pilot program this year - up from three schools last year. Under the program, parents, caregivers and their four- and five-year-olds attend an orientation at their neighbourhood school, where families receive a Kindergarten Welcome Bag and learn about activities they can do together at home over the summer.

Parents, caregivers and children attending an orientation receive:

- \* An information pamphlet called Help Your Child Get Ready for School
- \* Magnetic letters (upper and lower case) and numbers
- \* Templates for upper and lower case letters and the numbers 1-10
- \* Three books (a concept, counting and story book)
- \* Coloured construction paper, round-end scissors and a glue stick
- \* Thick crayons, a pencil and a scribble pad
- \* A recipe for play dough

"Reading is the key to a child's success in school," said Bond.

"Families can use the resources in the Kindergarten Welcome Bag to read together, play games and help children develop a love of learning that will help them succeed in kindergarten and beyond."

The Ministry of Education has provided the Learning Partnership with \$20,000 for the pilot, which began in the spring of 2005 at three Vancouver elementary schools. The Learning Partnership is a national, not-for-profit organization that brings together business, education, government, labour, policy makers and the community to develop partnerships that strengthen public education in Canada.

"More than ever before, it's important that we reach out to parents and teachers and help provide them with the necessary tools to make sure children are given the opportunities to succeed at school," said Veronica Lacey, president and CEO of the Learning Partnership. "Welcome to Kindergarten is a wonderful program that engages preschool children and their parents as they embark on their journey of lifelong learning in our public education system."

The Welcome to Kindergarten pilot is another way government is fulfilling its commitment to make B.C. the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent. Since 2001, the Province has announced more than \$53 million to support literacy, including: \$150,000 for books for kindergarten students;

\$610,000 for Books for Babies; \$6 million for Ready, Set, Learn, a kindergarten-readiness program for three-year-olds; and \$10 million for literacy innovation grants for B.C.'s 60 school districts.

## **2) GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS CHILD CARE WITH \$2-MILLION GRANT**

VICTORIA – As part of its ongoing effort to support the improvement of quality child care in British Columbia, the provincial government is investing \$2 million in a one-time grant through the Vancity Community Foundation, Minister of State for Childcare Linda Reid announced today.

“We have been consulting extensively with communities on a proposed vision for early learning and child care,” said Reid. “The funding announced today is a direct result of feedback we have received and we look forward to continuing our partnership with stakeholders and communities from all over B.C.” The funding will be used for professional development opportunities in the child care sector and the Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia (ECEBC) will be working closely with Vancity on this initiative. The ECEBC is a professional association that represents more than 700 early childhood educators across the province.

“This endowment will support our priorities of enhancing professional development and increase the important role of the ECE practitioner in the quality of the child care system,” said ECEBC president Toni Hoyland.

“We are extremely pleased to be partnering with ECEBC and the government of British Columbia to assist early childhood educators in the province,” said Vancity Community Foundation board chair Brian Nasu. “They provide a vital service for children and families and play a key role in the growth and development of strong and prosperous communities.”

The planning for effective early childhood development and child care programs is contributing towards the Province’s great goal of making make British Columbia the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.

## **3) The 2006 UEY Call for Proposals is now Live! - [www.sdc.gc.ca](http://www.sdc.gc.ca)**

Human Resources and Social Development Canada has issued its second Call for Proposals for the Understanding the Early Years (UEY) initiative. Proposals will be accepted until September 29, 2006.

Understanding the Early Years began as a research pilot project in 1999 and became a national initiative in 2004. By 2005 it was underway in 21 communities across Canada. Through a Call for Proposals in 2006, 2007 and 2008, we will identify additional communities for a total of up to 100 Understanding the Early Years communities.

## **4) \$275K SUPPORTS HEALTHY EATING FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES -**

[http://www.gov.bc.ca/bvprd/bc/channel.do?action=ministry&channelID=-8388&navId=NAV\\_ID\\_province](http://www.gov.bc.ca/bvprd/bc/channel.do?action=ministry&channelID=-8388&navId=NAV_ID_province)

Low-income adults and families will get the opportunity to improve their skills in food preparation and healthy eating, thanks to a one-time \$275,000 grant from the B.C. government, Employment and Income Assistance Minister Claude Richmond announced.

## **5) Ministry of Children and Family Development Consultation Paper Released**

A community consultation process on Early Learning and Child Care in B.C. was held in various locations throughout the province, including Kelowna, Prince Rupert, Cranbrook, Prince George, Nanaimo and Vancouver.

A summary report on the community consultations is available at:

[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/consult.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/consult.htm)



## **6) Rethinking Pedagogy in ECEC: International Perspectives (attached information)**

**When: Thursday, August 10 and Friday, August 11, 2006 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**  
**Where: Elliott Building, Room 168, University of Victoria**

*This two-day Institute features some of the most creative and innovative thinkers currently working internationally in early childhood education and care pedagogy. They bring a broad range of experience from around the world in the areas of practice, training, and professional development.*

***The Institute will consist of a series of panel discussions from the presenters, and the choice of one specialized workshop led by the presenters (see below).***

**Presenters:** Dr. Gunilla Dalhberg, Dr. Patrick Hughes, Ms. Wendy Lee, Dr. Glenda Mac Naughton, Dr. Beth Blue Swadener

**Forum Organizers:** Dr. Alan Pence, Dr. Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw

This event is organized as part of the *Investigating Quality in ECCD Project*, led by Drs. Alan Pence and Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw. The Project, supported by the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development, explores diverse discourses that relate to better understanding the complexity of 'quality' in early childhood care and education.

***There is no charge to attend this Institute, but Registration is required. You will need to provide for your own accommodation, lunch and refreshments. Please complete and send the attached Registration Form to Ana-Elisa Armstrong de Almeida by email: [anaelisa@uvic.ca](mailto:anaelisa@uvic.ca) or fax: 250-721-8977 by July 1<sup>st</sup>.***

For more information, please see the following website: <http://reach.uvic.ca/uvicsubpage.htm>

## Training

### 7) The HOP TO IT project

Hop to it project is looking for individuals interested in facilitating educational workshops for child care providers located on the Saanich Peninsula. The workshops will include teaching child care providers fun and innovative techniques and lessons they can use to encourage movement and recreation within their daily routines.

No experience is necessary for the workshop facilitator positions however an interest in encouraging health and recreation for children aged 0-6 would be beneficial. A free two day training session for the workshop facilitators will be held on Saturday, July 22 and Saturday July 29 at Greenglade Community Centre. All workshop facilitators will be required to facilitate 2 workshops with a co-facilitator during the months of August and September 2006.

If you would like to be a workshop facilitator or if you would like more information please contact Monica Cox, HOP TO IT Project Coordinator at:

Phone 598-7720 or email: [mcrumrine@shaw.ca](mailto:mcrumrine@shaw.ca)