

**REPORT TO THE  
INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
PROVINCIAL STEERING COMMITTEE**

**May 25, 2009 Respectfully submitted by Annie Wolverton  
Regional Advisor-Fraser Region**

Beginning with very sad news, Sharon Morson, an Infant Development Consultant from Langley, passed away on May 6, 2009, suddenly and unexpectedly. Sharon worked in the Infant Development Program for twelve years and made a positive, significant contribution to the lives of many, many young children and their families. Sharon leaves her own young family, husband, family members, colleagues and many friends who are saddened and overwhelmed with grief at the loss of someone so young, vibrant and loving. Sharon will be deeply missed and never forgotten by everyone who ever met her. She always had a smile, was so kind and was very committed to helping others. Sharon's Memorial Service was held on May 19, 2009, and the chapel was overflowing with friends and families who came to pay their respects to Sharon and her family.

The IDP Supervisors have been meeting monthly to share resources, discuss current topics of mutual interest and support one another regarding clinical and administrative issues. We have been planning a Regional Inservice with David Loyst who was requested by a number of staff in the Programs. David Loyst will be holding a two-day training on autism intervention on September 14 and 15, 2009.

There will also be a Regional Inservice in June with Wendy Hall, a Professor in the Nursing Department at UBC who has an immense amount of expertise in infants and sleep problems. The same day that Dr. Hall speaks, we will be hearing about the PURPLE Crying Program developed by Dr. Ron Barr which demonstrates researched patterns of crying in infants and is helpful for parents and professionals in understanding predictable patterns of crying in young infants. The remainder of the day will be devoted to hearing from a speaker from the Down Syndrome Research Foundation who will be coming to speak to us about the new ways being discovered regarding how children with Down Syndrome learn.

The Western Canadian Association for Infant Mental Health had their AGM in April and they continue to have monthly meetings with guest speakers or members of the group presenting new information relating to the field. This is a dedicated group of people who come together to meet each month and share research, support each other in clinical work and learn from each other.

I want to thank everyone who has been helping with the Gesell Safety Committee. There have been many useful ideas come from this group of people and Amelia has been so helpful in taking the minutes for this committee. Carolyn Graves has been extremely skillfull chairing the committee and guiding us through the work that needs to be done, sorting out the ideas which have been shared and keeping us on track as to what to do next. Carolyn has been doing an outstanding job and I am very grateful for her leadership. There are important ideas coming from this committee about ensuring the safety of not only the Gesell assessment materials, but also other important safety issues which the Infant Development Consultants need to be aware of continually in their work. The committee has yet to determine whether or not it is acceptable to send out the wooden items for the remainder of the Gesell orders in which complete kits were ordered.

The Gesell training took place at UBC last week. I would sincerely like to thank Mary Stewart, Judith Oldfield and Lynn Krausert for doing the two full days of the Gesell training. They are expert teachers and group facilitators who know the Gesell Assessment extremely well. I feel confident that they did an outstanding job and I appreciate each of them committing their time to do this teaching. While these three other Regional Advisors were teaching the Gesell Assessment, I attended the PICCOLO training. I am very pleased to have finally been able to attend this training and gain a deeper understanding of what the PICCOLO is and how it can be used to help parents with their parenting capacity. The timing for me to take this training was excellent since the week before I had taken training in the Clinical Parenting Capacity Model for Mothers Affected by Mental Illness. Having these two workshops so close together allowed me the opportunity to compare the two models and see the differences and similarities in how we can support parents in their role and build on their strengths as parents.

At the last minute a meeting was cancelled last Thursday which allowed me to attend the afternoon session of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Childhood Assessment Conference. Every year, I find this Conference to be more helpful to my work. This year, I was particularly impressed with the local professionals showcasing their research and discussing what they were going to do with the research and how to put this new information into practise.

A recent highlight for me was to be invited to attend part of the Regional Inservice in the North which took place at the end of April. I presented an afternoon workshop on Infant Mental Health, the most frequent Childhood Mental Illnesses and their treatments. It was a very dynamic workshop with lots of questions and discussion. The Infant Development Consultants and other staff who attended the workshop were so friendly and welcoming. It was particularly exciting to be in Prince George when the Prince George IDP celebrated their thirty-year anniversary. Congratulations to the Prince George IDP and thank you to Mary Stewart and the people in the North who helped to make my trip to Prince George so enjoyable.