

**REPORT TO THE PROVINCIAL STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE INFANT  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
JUNE 17, 2008  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY ANNIE WOLVERTON  
REGIONAL ADVISOR FRASER REGION-IDP OF BC**

Fortunately, I was able to attend the International Infant Studies Conference which was held in Vancouver during March. The speakers were from both local universities and from institutions from around the world. They shared their research and findings on a range of subjects, contributing to a better understanding of early brain development and how we can better support infants in learning and functioning in all domains as they mature. It was an excellent Conference with difficult choices to make regarding which lectures to attend and challenges as to how to remember all of the valuable material which was presented. Some of the staff from the Fraser Health Authority and I have been contributing to the coordination of training new Public Health Nurses (PHN) in the Fraser Region. There are very dynamic staff working hard in the Region to organize comprehensive, thorough and consistent training regularly, throughout the year, for the PHN's. This training includes audiology, dental screening, vision screening and an afternoon devoted to learning about the Infant Development Program and child development. The response from the IDP Supervisors and some of the IDP staff has been overwhelmingly positive and there is a keen interest in participating in this training by facilitating the afternoon session about the IDP and child development. I am very pleased to have this opportunity to be engaged in this training and in the partnership with the staff from the Public Health Department. This is and always has been an extremely important relationship to have with the Infant Development Programs. In the Fraser Region this is very useful as an additional way to get to know more of the staff as the very large Infant Screening Project gets underway. Two very interesting speaking opportunities have occurred recently when I had the chance to talk about the IDP. One engagement was speaking to the teachers in the Burnaby School District during their Professional Development days. The other meeting was speaking to the psychiatry residents at BCCH about IDP and how many of the children involved with the IDP also receive services at Children's. These were very receptive audiences who asked many

questions and had such a keen interest in the IDP that they ran overtime and continue to email me with further questions.

Bonnie Barnes, Lynn Krausert, Judith Oldfield and Mary Stewart facilitated the recent Gesell training which took place in May. They did an excellent job teaching the Gesell Assessment to participants who had a range of experience with the Gesell. I did not do any of the teaching this time, however, I was present to help answer questions. I was very impressed by the Power Point presentations prepared by the Regional Advisors and how well they taught the information about the theory, administration and interpretation of the Gesell.

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