

**Report to Provincial Steering Committee for the Infant Development Programs
of British Columbia**

Provincial Steering Committee Meeting-October 2, 2008

**Respectfully submitted by Annie Wolverton, Regional Advisor- Fraser Region
Infant Development Programs of British Columbia**

The Summer Institute this past July was a valuable combination of information on hearing loss and deafness in infants and the process of parents' adjusting to these diagnoses in their infants. Woven throughout the instruction about the early diagnosis of being hard of hearing or deaf were relevant details on mental health. This Summer Institute was extremely helpful and timely due to the importance of being educated by the Newborn Hearing Screening Program.

The two professors at the Summer Institute were excellent. Lori Bell and Mary Stewart did an outstanding job teaching a difficult and complex course. They were very organized and taught with contemporary adult learning styles. I have been very fortunate to be included in a lot of the training and orientation regarding the Newborn Hearing Screening Program this past year and this course was an important addition to the information I have learned during this year. I learned new and different knowledge during the Summer Institute.

I was also lucky to have the opportunity to attend some of the Brain Development Conference. I had not registered for the conference and shortly before the conference, I heard of some days, which had been paid for, and the participants were not able to attend. I was offered their spaces and gratefully attended in their place. I am so glad to have had this opportunity and this conference was full of up-to-date information which is reinforcing for knowledge I already have and gives new ideas and information to expand my thinking. My thanks go to Lorna Montgomery and Mary Stewart for giving me the opportunity to attend some of this very worthwhile conference.

I finally found someone new to make the wooden items required for the *Gesell Assessment* kits and I have been filling back-ordered and new *Gesell* orders steadily. The Lower Mainland Supervisors' monthly meetings will start soon as will the monthly meetings of the Western Canadian Association for Infant Mental Health. The *Gesell* training is rapidly approaching together with the Infant Development Program Provincial Inservice in November. It is during this time that we will be celebrating Dr. Dana Brynelsen's long and treasured commitment to being the visionary leader of the Infant Development Programs of British Columbia.