

**REPORT TO THE PROVINCIAL STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**Infant Development Programs of British Columbia**  
**September 19, 2006**

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The Provincial Infant Development Program Review taking place has demanded a significant amount of my Regional Advisor time during the past three months. I heard or participated in teleconferences from all of the IDP Regions in the Province except for Lynn Krausert's Region. This experience offered me the opportunity to hear about the challenges that Infant Development Consultants are experiencing throughout British Columbia as well as to hear about the positive experiences that the Consultants are having in their valuable work with families. I was very impressed with the depth of understanding of the Infant Development Program demonstrated by Consultants in all of the Regions I heard from. There is no question that many aspects of the Infant Development Program are working extremely well and are serving the needs of children and families throughout British Columbia.

Congratulations and welcome to Bonnie Barnes, the Supervisor of the Vancouver IDP as she takes on the Acting Regional Advisor for the Vancouver/Coastal Region of the IDP. I am looking forward to working with Bonnie and learning from her, as she is a well-respected Infant Development Consultant and Supervisor.

I was very fortunate to be able to attend the *Brain Development and Learning: Making Sense of the Science* conference held in Vancouver in August. It was a well-organized conference with excellent speakers who presented a plethora of information demonstrating the necessity of supporting children and families, particularly when the children are young, to help them achieve optimal functioning as productive, empathetic, and healthy citizens.

I attended the Dr. Hira Panikkar Memorial lecture on September 8, 2006. This year the lecture was presented by Dr. Ron Barr, Director of the Centre for Community Child Health Research, Children's and Women's Health Centre. Dr. Barr gave an excellent lecture on *Crying, Stress and Memory: Mothers Helping Infants with a Good Start in Life*.

Together with the other Regional Advisors and Dana Brynelsen, we have been finalizing the arrangements for the Gesell Training and Provincial IDP Inservice this October.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gary Buckingham for his amazing talent and dedication to helping the Infant Development Program by making many of the Gesell Assessment items on his own time. Mr. Buckingham is the father-in-law of Melissa Buckingham, one of the Infant Development Consultants in the Coquitlam IDP. Mr. Buckingham is also the very proud grandfather of Melissa and her husband's daughter.

The orders for Gesell kits and items for the Gesell kits are coming in regularly and frequently.

The Lower Mainland IDP Supervisors will begin their monthly meetings this September after a break during the summer months. The Lower Mainland Region is planning a Regional Inservice for December 1, 2006. The Inservice is on the *Assessment, Evaluation and Programming System (AEPS)* and will be taught by the Regional Advisors. The request for the Region has called for learning more about the AEPS for quite some time and it is will fill a need in the tool-kit of the Infant Development Consultants in the Region.