



FACS

Family and Children's Services
of the District of Rainy River



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Feature Article

Office Locations:

Fort Frances Office (Main office)

240 First Street East, Suite 200
Fort Frances, Ontario P9A 1K5
Phone: (807) 274-7787
Fax: (807) 274-6646

Atikokan Office

214 Main Street
P.O. Box 2050
Atikokan, Ontario P0T 1C0
Phone: (807)597-2700
Fax: (807) 597-6920

TOLL FREE NUMBER
1-800-465-7764

Triple P



Family and Children's Services (FACS) is buzzing with excitement and anticipation in regard to a tremendous opportunity that is coming our way. **Triple P (Positive Parenting Program)** is coming to FACS. **Triple P** is an **evidence-based parenting program** that was founded over 25 years ago. Additionally, **Triple P** is **described as a parenting and family support strategy** that aims to prevent severe behavioral, emotional and development problems in children by enhancing the

knowledge, skills and confidence of parents.

This parenting program was **developed in Australia** and is delivered world wide by trainers from Australia.



Over the course of the week from April 21st through April 25th, **Felicity West from Triple P** will be in Fort Frances to train and equip almost all of FACS social workers and clinicians. The staff at FACS are excited at the prospect of delivering this multi-level, comprehensive parenting program to the citizens of the

Rainy River District. What makes this program unique are the many levels of **Triple P** suited to the specific needs of an agency and/or clients.

In June of 2008 **Triple P** will send another trainer from Australia to complete the accreditation process. Family and Children's Services is pleased to be able to bring **Triple P** to the Rainy River District.

For more information about **Triple P**, please contact me at ext. 276. If you require the services of our staff, please call **Integrated Services Northwest** at (807) 274-7787.

Troy Clink
Manager of Children's
Mental Health

Community Service & Quality Assurance

Service Planning

I once heard someone say, "for an organization not to have a **strategic plan** is similar for an individual driving to a new destination without a map." After completing our second cycle of strategic planning, I certainly can vouch for this statement. From our 2003 session, we have seen many positive changes that can be directly attributed to having a plan.

As reported in the February newsletter, FACS has completed strategic planning for 2008 to 2013. We are currently developing a **vision statement** that reflects our exciting new direction, which focuses on:

- A healthy workplace.
- A culture of respectful working relationships.
- Building a foundation of excellence.

- Valuing and pursuing professional development.
- Responsible collaborative services.
- Community relations.
- Services to meet changing needs.

In order to move us toward reaching our vision, **four strategic directions** were developed:

1. Towards enhancing our potential.
2. Towards a respectful professional service.
3. Towards strengthening our foundation.
4. Towards managing our success.

Two to three strategies were **developed for each direction**, and during our annual service planning on March 27th, we developed specific goals for selected strategies. As a result, we

have **exciting new initiatives** underway, such as team building, infrastructure improvement, training and relationship building plans. Work is already underway to bring our **value statements** to life, as you will see next time you visit our multiple purpose room in Fort Frances.

We were pleased to have held this event in Atikokan at the Little Falls Recreation Centre. Many thanks to the staff there for their hospitality.

Betty-Anne MacKintosh
Manager of Community Services
and Quality Assurance



Staff participating at service planning.



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We are on the Web!
www.facsrr.ca

Developmental Services

The Value of Play



The toy market has been flooded with educational toys, books and videos aimed at making babies "smart". As parents, we all want to make sure our children have every opportunity to learn and succeed, and it seems the sooner we start "teaching" the better. But in a rush to buy flashcards, it seems we have forgotten how to **just play with our kids**.

One hundred years ago children did not have all of the mass market gadgets aimed at

teaching colours, yet they learned them anyway.



So **put down the Baby Einstein video** and get down on the floor with your kids. Or go for a walk.

Observe what they are interested in, comment on their activity, join in and ask questions. You will be **building self-esteem** by showing you value their interests, and through everyday play, you will be amazed at what they can

learn (colours, letters, language).



The **Child Development Program offers "You Make the Difference"**, a

parenting program designed to help parents interact with their children and help them to learn through play.

For more information, or to join a You Make the Difference Parenting Program, please contact the Child Development Program.

Joanne Davis
Child Development Worker



Child Protection Services

Staffing Announcement

The Child Protection Team **bears bittersweet news** for the month of April.

It is with sadness that we announce the **departure of Family Service Worker Jonathan Cumming** from the Atikokan office. Jonathan has contributed over three years of quality support, assistance, and direction to children and families in the community, and his dedication to service delivery in Atikokan will be missed.

Jonathan has been able to thoughtfully consider the needs of the children he works with in a way that is very meaningful and

appropriate, and his efforts have been noted to go beyond what is typical in the field of this regard. His consistently accurate clinical assessments have also been an asset to the Child Protection Team.

The Child Protection Team wishes Jonathan the warmest regards, and the best of luck in future endeavours.

At the end of the month, however, **Family Service Worker Garry Billings** will be **returning to the Atikokan office**. Garry's return to Atikokan will be an asset to the community, as he continues to build and maintain a positive rapport with community partners.

Garry's familiarity with Atikokan families, coupled with his wealth of experience in the field as a Family Service Worker, will also help ensure that existing clients will not be unduly affected by the transfer of service from Jonathan.



Thanks (in advance), Garry!

Gabe Carpenter
Manager of Protection Services

Call your local office of Family & Children's Services 24 Hours a day, 7 Days a week Or visit us on the web www.facsrr.ca



Children's Services

OnLAC



On March 31 and April 1, **OnLAC (Ontario Looking**

After Children) core training was provided to Foster Parents from Atikokan and Fort Frances in order to familiarize themselves with the content of the program. Along with the **clinical benefits for children**, the data collected through **OnLAC** will provide outcome data for Children's Aid Societies and the Ministry of Children & Youth Services to make improvements. **OnLAC** is a comprehensive assess-

ment for the planning of our children in foster care as it identifies and builds on the strengths of children, guides the foster care provider in daily parenting, and generates key outcome data to ensure workers are focused on the children's needs.

For additional information regarding **OnLAC**, please call Martene Nelson at (807) 274-7787 ext. 267 or Linda Goose at (807) 597-2700 ext. 32.