



Developmental Services

What's New at Developmental Services?

Developmental Services will be hosting their **First Annual Children's Services Fair** on Thursday, September 27, 2007 at Robert Moore School Gym from 5:00pm to 8:00pm.



This fair is to highlight the services, sports and other activities available to children in the Rainy River District. There will be food, activities for the children, draw prizes and, of course, balloons.

For more information you may contact Carolyn Skirten, Developmental Services Manager at 274-7787 ext 248.

Hope to see you all at the **FAIR!**

Multi-Sensory Room

We will be showcasing our Multi-Sensory room in **Fort Frances From 4:00pm - 8:00pm On October 10, 2007 and in Atikokan on October 11, 2007.**

This will be open to service providers and parents by invitation only. Nula Reid, Occupational Therapist for the Child Development Centre in Kenora will be doing a brief presentation on sensory issues.



For an invitation please contact Carolyn Skirten, Developmental Services Manager at (807) 274-7787 ext 248.

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

Rainy River Office

113 Fourth Street East
P.O. Box 476
Rainy River, Ontario P0W 1L0
Phone: (807) 852-3387
Fax: (807) 852-1064

TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-800-465-7764



Children's Mental Health Services

Bullying

As we embark on another school year, it is important as clinicians, parents, caregivers, teachers and administrators to once again be aware of bullying and the devastating effect it can have on a child's emotional and social development. The effects of bullying can last a lifetime and can cause high levels of stress and anxiety in children.

Throughout the years, bullying has been pervasive and exists in all areas of our lives from schools, neighbourhoods, sport clubs and workplaces. Therefore, when working with children it is important to be aware and vigilant.

Every child has the right to an education in a safe and secure environment. It is important to remember that bullying is not about anger or conflict between children, but rather a strong contempt or dislike for somebody who they perceive as being inferior and less worthy.

Children who bully others often feel a sense of entitlement, have less tolerance for differences, and feel they have the right to exclude or isolate others.

Bullying can present in three very different and distinct manners; physical, verbal and relational bullying. All are damaging and devastating to a child, however, relational bullying, whereby a child is excluded and rejected by their peers and social connections, can often be the most damaging. These children are being rejected by their peer group at a time when children need their social connections.

Children who are being bullied cannot escape the school yard, the change room or the cafeteria and therefore, have to endure the humiliation of bullying.

The following may be signs that a child is being bullied:

- Being afraid to go to school or a lack of interest in school, grades begin to drop
- Feeling ill in the morning with headaches or stomach aches
- Changes in their mood or behaviour i.e. quiet, sad, withdrawing from family, peers
- Nightmares or disturbed sleep
- Coming home with damaged property, unexplained bruises
- Using derogatory or demeaning language when talking about peers
- Avoiding play areas at lunch or recess

The following are tips or strategies that parents can use if they think their child is being bullied:

- Ask them directly and do not minimize the bully's behavior
- Reinforce that it is not the child's fault
- Listen and encourage your children to talk about school and social events
- Tell the school immediately
- Support your child in being more independent
- Teach children ways to effectively resolve arguments and conflict

If you are concerned about your child's emotional well being and feel that more intervention is needed, **contact Integrated Services Northwest at (807) 274-9797** for assistance in directing you to the appropriate service provider.



Patty Wirtanen,
Children's Mental
Health Therapist

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically; or to provide feedback about the newsletter, please notify us by sending an e-mail to: Information@facsrr.ca



We are on the Web!
www.facsrr.ca

Sunny Cove Camp

Sunny Cove was a hit with the kids again this summer! The camp was held from June 25-27th and was offered to children aged 6-12 who are involved with the Agency.

The camp was a great experience for the children as there were loads of fun things to do, such as organized games, canoeing, roasting marshmallows and, of course, swimming. With all the fun activities, the two days seemed to fly by.

We ended off the last night with a dance for the children, which was a real highlight.

The next morning as the children slowly trickled home, many comments were heard "not being able to wait until next year." This is a real indicator of the success of the event.

Thanks again to all of the dedicated staff and volunteers of the Agency who really made this camp a positive experience for the children.



Child Protection Services

Changes in Child Protection Standards and Legislation

When working with children and families in the child protection field, Family Service Workers must often consider the best way to impart new knowledge and skill to those they work with. In order for any child protection intervention to be effective, there must be an initial process where families come to realize that workers are able to provide help and support, and are not there just to blame them for what is wrong in their lives. I believe that the change in the child protection standards and legislation will make this much easier to accomplish.

The previous Risk Assessment Model used in child protection focused on each family's deficiencies. Looking back at your childhood, you will know

that being asked where the other 20% was after telling your parents that you scored 80% on a test is not an effective way to motivate somebody.

The new Differential Response Model combines the thoroughness of the Risk Assessment Model with a new and much less adversarial approach to working with parents. For example, a traditional "forensic" investigation can be initiated for severe abuse cases that require it, but the Differential Response Model promotes building a rapport with families.

Families may also be more likely to work independently in the future if they are allowed to make decisions about their children with feedback from knowledgeable and experienced workers. The changes in the child protection standards and

legislation encourage this as well, as families now have greater control over decision making based on their strengths, and over where their children may go if they cannot remain at home.

It is my hope that the agency's new tag line, "Where Families Matter," will be apparent to the community and demonstrated through the work carried out by members of the Child Protection team. If the goal is to encourage families to function independently, then I believe that the Differential Response Model is a step in the right direction.



Gabe Carpenter,
 Manager of
 Protection Services

Community Services & Quality Assurance

Volunteer Program

Volunteers play a very important role at FACS. We have been fortunate to have Meghan Haehn volunteer in our agency for the past two years. Meghan is both a "special friend" and a tutor.

Meghan enjoys helping children and recommends that anyone looking for a meaningful volunteer activity become a part of the program.



We are looking for "special friends," tutors, drivers, child care attendants and helpers at special events. We have an urgent need in the west end of the district.

For further information on the Volunteer Program and how to get involved, please contact Jeanne Pasch, Volunteer Coordinator at 274-7787, ext. 270 or toll free at 1-800-465-7764.

The staff, management and Board at FACS sends a very special thank you to all our volunteers!



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

Thank You - FACS Board of Directors



The staff, students & management at FACS would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Directors for the staff appreciation BBQ this past June.

We are truly blessed to have such a caring and dedicated board!

Members: Norma Elliott, Bernice Kempf (retired), Christine Denby, Bob McGreevy, Fred Wilson, Laurie Ball, Ken Stainthorpe, Edith Bodnar, Laurie Cole, Lonna Oster and new member, Meghan Haehn.