

Community Coordinator Report

Since beginning my position at the beginning of September, I have had the opportunity to meet with most of the agencies represented at the CYC. As I have shared before, this has been an eye-opener and most helpful in assisting me in getting a handle of my position. There are a number of programs that I am hoping to visit in the New Year, in order to gain a better understanding of the clients the various agencies serve. Sitting on the various committees has been most helpful and has allowed me to make connections with community stakeholders who are not directly part of the CYC.

As the Success By 6 Representative for Chilliwack I have been meeting with the various Credit Union Managers to introduce myself and to secure their ongoing support of the Early years programs. I have also been building my muscles delivering the 2013 Success by 6 calendars. At this time I am in the process of updating the Success by 6 brochure. For the first time, Chilliwack will be permitted to include all of its Early Year programs on the inside page, rather than it being only regional information.

National Child Day was a success and I am grateful for the agencies who donated items for our goodie bags and the cake, and the representatives who came to help and show support on the day of the event. We had approximately 40 children attend and they thoroughly enjoyed the story time with the Mayor and the musical talent of John Maleska. And what kid doesn't enjoy leaving a party with a helium balloon and a goodie bag! Afterwards I had the opportunity to speak to the mayor and council. I had no idea what I was expected to share, but I am grateful that our CYC website got some good publicity. In preparation for National Child Day, I did learn a lot about the Convention of the Rights and Freedoms of Children and what Canada has agreed to as a result of ratifying this document. Other than our event at City Hall I heard no other mention of National Child Day on a provincial or federal level. I thought it interesting that the Child Poverty Report came out on November 21, the day after National Child Day. Neither Canada nor B.C. has a strategic plan on how to eliminate poverty. This has

inspired me to make a point of connecting with our local provincial and federal representatives and to make sure they are aware of the challenges facing children, youth and families in our city.

In November I met with the editors of our local papers to introduce myself. I am looking for cost efficient ways to promote our agencies and our website. The Times has told me that they would be interested in any human interest stories, especially a success story. So if you have story that you think should be shared, let me know.

I have been contacted by the head researcher for the Chilliwack Social Research and Planning Council on Middle/High School student engagement and completion rates asking if I could be a reference source in assisting with their research and have been able to offer her some assistance.

I have also been contacted by Holly Jajcaj from Community Service about working together to create an updated "Parent Guide". Hopefully this will be a project that can be tackled in the New Year.

Since September I have attended a forum on Trauma Informed Practice which I found very fascinating and a Human Early Learning Project Research Expo at UBC. This also was interesting as it focused on the EDI and MDI screenings and pilot project results. I have completed a HELP training seminar and am now a qualified Community Trainer for EDI.

At this time I am attempting to read through the latest report, put out in November of this year by the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences Expert Panel, on Early Childhood Development and will update you with any new or interesting findings. I do try my best to stay updated on any new research or trends and update all of you when I feel it is appropriate.