



NEWS BULLETIN

monthly news for family resource program providers

June / July 2007

PROVINCIAL DATA COLLECTION OF FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS

Over the past couple of months FRP-BC has been contacting family resource programs across the province in an effort to gather up-to-date information. Much of this data collection is being gathered by our Membership Coordinator, Sherry Sinclair. It is vital for FRP-BC to have current information on all of the family resource programs whether part of a multi service agency or a volunteer drop-in. Knowing the field is increasingly important as we move forward with the following projects:

- Post Secondary FRP Certificate
- FRP sector Policy and Procedures
- FRP Capacity Grants

As the provincial representative of family resource programs, FRP-BC is frequently asked to provide information to government and funders on various services, funding structure and other aspects of family resource programming. For instance, in the recent development of StrongStart Centres, FRP-BC mapped all the family resource programs in the database with the school districts and shared the spreadsheet with the Ministry of Education. This enabled us to notify family resource programs and encourage their involvement in the development of StrongStart in their school districts. And it also enabled the school districts to connect with FRPs and create partnerships.

We strongly encourage family resource programs to take the time and provide our office with details of your program when requested. Sherry will be contacting family resource programs through email and phone. She will be happy to answer questions and assist you in completing our questionnaire. FRP-BC cannot advocate for programs we either don't know about or have little or incorrect knowledge of.

Family resource programs should also be aware that FRP-BC membership will be part of the criteria in the application process for a Capacity Grant. If you have any questions about the FRP-BC data collection or how the information will be utilized, please contact FRP-BC at 604.738.0068.

CHILD RESTRAINT AND BOOSTER SEAT— NEW LEGISLATION

Recently, BC's child passenger regulations were amended to be: *a child eight years and under who is too small for an adult seat belt must use an appropriate child restraint or booster seat unless the child is at least 80 pounds (36 kg) or 4'9" (145 cm); a child who has reached their ninth birthday or has met or exceeded the weight or height (80 lbs, 4'9") limits can be graduated to an adult seat belt.*

The Ministry of Children and Family Development has partnered with the British Columbia Automobile Association on a campaign in support of the Provincial Booster Seat Public Education Strategy. A number of booster seats have been purchased and will soon be ready for distribution throughout BC as well as a large number of \$5 off coupons for the purchase of booster seats at Toys-R-Us. FRP-BC has been asked to assist in identifying families who have need of a free booster seat. As an initial overture, we are requesting that family resource programs connect with families and contact our office with orders. Rather than sending the seats to the individual families, it is expected that the seats will be sent to the community FRP where they can be picked up by the parent/s. This is a wonderful opportunity for families especially those who can't afford this added expense.

BC Association of Family Resource Programs

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