



Kids New West Child Development Committee

Strategic Plan 2015- 2019

Acknowledgements

The New Westminster Strategic Planning Action Team would like to thank the members of the Kids New West Child Development Committee for their time, dedication and efforts on behalf of children. They have worked collaboratively for the past twelve years to inform the community about local early and middle childhood development programs and resources, to increase community awareness of the importance of the early and middle years and to provide quality services to families and children. They are passionate in their commitment to children.

We would also like to acknowledge the Children First Initiative, Ministry of Children and Family Development; and Success by Six, United Way of the Lower Mainland.



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Introduction

Mission

To build community capacity that supports and promotes the health and well-being of children and their families and to collaboratively provide opportunities that support social-emotional competence and connectedness to family members, peers, and the community.

Vision

The vision for the Kids New West Child Development Committee is:

Healthy, happy, and resilient children and families engaged in an inclusive and supportive community.

Values

- Inclusive
- Accessible
- Collaborative
- Receptive
- Responsive
- Innovative

Guiding Principles

Evidence-based – There is a commitment to make decisions based on current and accepted research and evidence-based outcomes. There will be a sharing of information in order to remain informed of local early and middle childhood development needs and priorities.

Strengths-based – There is a commitment to acknowledge and build on the strengths of children, families and community to enhance opportunities for child development.

Diversity – There is respect for the diverse composition of families, a commitment to eliminating barriers to access, and to a universal platform of supports and services available to all children, that is accompanied by additional targeted services for highly vulnerable children.

Accountability – There is a transparent infrastructure in place with clear policies and processes, which will guide all committee decisions, actions and reporting mechanisms.

Best practices – Effective and proven best practices, guide early childhood development planning and decision-making.

“The program [provides] parents with young children ... a great chance to learn more about the community, to improve themselves, and to make friends while sharing the experiences and challenges in parenting.”

“I learned that when parents play with their kids, this is the way to be connected and ... closer.”

Evaluation

There are three annual reporting and evaluation activities **Kids New West Child Development Committee** undertakes.

MCFD Children First Program Information and Evaluation

This information is gathered from all agencies that receive Children First funding to:

- Monitor the use of resources
- Build capacity of the Committee and its individual members to undertake meaningful evaluation
- Improve accountability
- Inform future funding decisions
- Improve service quality and coordination

Provincial Online Evaluation of ECD Community Development Activities

In the fall of 2005, the BC Early Childhood Development [ECD] Funders Group agreed to work together to test whether it was possible to identify and agree upon common child outcomes for BC. After reviewing relevant research, the following vision and 4 long-term outcomes were adopted:

Vision:

Children are healthy and develop to their full potential.

Long Term Outcomes:

1. Mothers are healthy and give birth to healthy infants who remain healthy
2. Children experience healthy early child development, including optimal early learning and care
3. Parents are empowered and supported to nurture and support their children
4. Communities support the development of all children and families

The ECD Evaluation Project aims to create an integrated evaluation and reporting system for community ECD initiatives across BC. **Kids New West** participates in an annual evaluation focused on the long-term outcome: *Communities support the development of all children and families.*

The purpose of the evaluation is:

- To contribute information that provides an overview of the significant regional and provincial impact of ECD community initiatives
- To provide local community tables with evidence-based data that allows for regular evaluation of strategic directions

Annual Review

In early March of each year, the Committee, reviews its accomplishments, reviews action team work plans to ensure alignment with the Strategic Action Plan, and reviews and updates the Strategic Action Plan as appropriate for the coming year.

About Kids New West Child Development Committee

In 2013-14, the New Westminster Early Childhood Development Committee and the Middle Childhood Development Committee merged to form Kids New West Child Development Committee in an effort to be a stronger voice speaking on behalf of children 0-12 years old, to increase collaboration amongst members, to be eligible for a greater breadth of funding opportunities, and to efficiently share administrative supports.

Kids New West Child Development Committee include representatives from government, not-for profit and other agencies, and is supported by municipal, provincial, federal and philanthropic funders (see Appendix 1).

Formed in 2003 as a 'Children First' Committee, focused on early childhood development (ECD), the Committee held a region-wide symposium to introduce Children First to Early Childhood Development service providers and to develop an Early Childhood Development Strategic Plan. During this time, the Children First Committee was officially formed, and it developed a mission, vision, guiding principles, terms of reference and decision-making guidelines. The Children First Committee evolved into the New Westminster ECD Steering Committee, formed to oversee the development and implementation of the Early Childhood Development Strategic Plan, and worked closely with key local partners (see Appendix 2).

Action Teams were formed to work on strategic plan goals and a Community Development Coordinator was hired to support the process.

From 2004 to the present, the committee evolved to meet the changing needs of children, families and the community through:

- Conducting annual reviews to maintain transparent and accountable practice
- Employing evidence-based research and reliable local information and data to inform decision-making
- Creating Action teams
- Creating an early and middle childhood strategic action plan: the *2015 – 2019 Kids New West Child Development Strategic Plan*, completed in August 2015, with re-envisioned mission, vision, values, guiding principles, goals, and objectives

The Organizational Chart Diagram shows the present relationship between the Committee, action teams and related initiatives (see Appendix 3).

State of Child Development

Research and Trends

Below are some highlights of the research and trends from the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) early and middle childhood data (EDI and MDI), the Heart-Mind Index (HMI), and the 2011 National Household Census data.

Early Childhood Development Index (EDI)

Wave 5

In Wave 5, New Westminster had an overall vulnerability rate of 33% compared to the provincial vulnerability rate of 32.5%. Neighbourhood vulnerability rates ranged from 21% to 47%. There were no neighbourhoods at or below 20%.

Some findings from the Wave 5 EDI data collected between 2011-2013 show:

- 33% of children were vulnerable on at least one scale of development
- District wide, vulnerability was highest on the Social Competence scale at 16% and the lowest on the Language & Cognitive Development scale at 10%
- Connaught Heights had the lowest level of vulnerability at 21%
- Downtown-Stewardson had the highest level of vulnerability at 47%
- Three neighbourhoods had a critical increase in vulnerability: Downtown 47%, Queens Park 34%, and Sapperton 36%
- Two neighbourhoods had a critical decrease in vulnerability: Connaught Heights 21% and Queensborough 25%

(From the HELP EDI Community Summary: New Westminster (School District #40) – Fall 2013)

Trends

Over the last four Waves, New Westminster's overall vulnerability rate has increased. Between a quarter and a third of New Westminster's kindergarten population was vulnerable. Between Wave 4 and Wave 5, Downtown, Sapperton, and Queen's Park, saw a critical increase in vulnerability on one or more of the EDI scales. The trend over the last four Waves of EDI results shows the following:

- Physical Health & Well-Being and Social Competence scales increased over time
- Emotional Maturity and Language & Cognitive Development scales dipped in vulnerability in Wave 3, but returned to Wave 2 levels
- Communication Skills scale decreased in vulnerability overall.

"I have learnt how to interact and communicate with my child, and how to deal with my child's emotional situation. This program provides great support to me." ~Single Parent

Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)

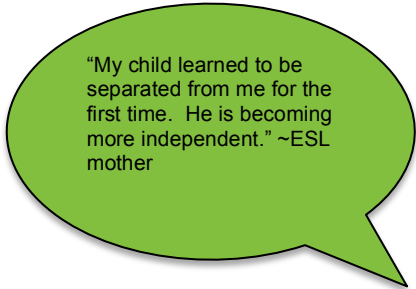
While MDI data from 2011-2013 showed that vulnerability among young children in Sapperton was on the rise, Grade 4 students from the same neighbourhood reported 47% thriving (close to the overall district level), and **92%** reported having the asset of positive adult relationships in their lives. This was the highest level reported for this asset across all New Westminster neighbourhoods.

In 2011-2013, New Westminster Grade 4 students self reported data showed the following:

- Overall 49% thriving
- Medium-high well-being, 23%
- Low well-being, 28%

When students were asked to list all of the adults who were important to them in school, they reported the following:

- Overall, 68% listed two or more
- 21% had none



"My child learned to be separated from me for the first time. He is becoming more independent." ~ESL mother

Heart Mind Index (HMI)

Similar to EDI and MDI results, the HMI data for New Westminster show neighbourhood differences where some neighbourhoods did better than expected, including Sapperton and Uptown. Sapperton had the highest or next-to-highest positive HMI scores across scales such as Solves Problems Peacefully, Secure and Calm, and Alert and Engaged. Even on the Gets Along with Others scale, children in Sapperton had the highest combined medium-high score.

2011 National Household Census Data

Some highlights from the 2011 National Household Census Data, for the community as a whole, show:

- The majority with a high school or post secondary education
- A wide range in socio-economic status, and ethno-cultural diversity
- Over one third visible minority population

See Appendix 4 for details.

Community Strategic Action Plan

Vision:

Healthy, happy, and resilient children and families engaged in an inclusive and supportive community.

Mission:

To build community capacity that supports and promotes the health and well-being of children and their families and to collaboratively provide opportunities that support social-emotional competence and connectedness to family members, peers, and the community.

Goal 1:

A committee that fosters partnerships and collaborative action in the community.

Goal 2:

Ensure opportunities and supports for children and families that promote health child development.

Goal 3:

Encourage and strengthen family environments.

Goal 4:

Educate the broader community about the value of investing in healthy child development.

Goals and Objectives

Goal # 1: A committee that fosters partnerships and collaborative action in the community.

Objectives	Activities
1.1 Maintain a strong, diverse, committee with an effective governance structure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure membership meets the needs of the strategic plan by working under shared terms of reference, developing action teams and work plans, investing in training for members, holding consistent meetings, regularly reviewing the funding processes, participating in ongoing review of strategic directions, and a guided visioning process.
1.2 Develop and maintain a collaborative approach to support children aged 0-12 years old.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase collaboration across the committee and with external public partners, childcare providers, and community organizations serving children and families
1.3 Increase the profile of the Kids New West Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore out-of-the-box partnerships with business, faith community, and non-profit sector• Improve communication among services and programs, linking and supporting childcare providers

Goal # 2: Ensure opportunities and supports for children and families that promote healthy child development.

Objectives	Activities
2.1 Support the holistic development of children in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social and Emotional Competence• Physical Health and Well-being• Language, Communication and Cognitive Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop resources and provide opportunities for families in the area of fostering resiliency, self-determination, empathy, active lifestyles, and literacy.
2.2 Support the holistic development of children in the areas of connectedness to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents• Peers• School• Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage in children and youth: a sense of belonging, to receive and give peer support, form positive relationships with trusted adults.• Partner with schools re: importance of adults in schools
2.3 Monitor existing community services for children and youth to identify service gaps, and availability of services.	

"Having this group to attend has given me support in parenting and the day to day living. I feel positive and uplifted coming to this program."

"I knew nobody before in New West but now I know people from the class." (ESL Mom)

Goal # 3: Encourage and strengthen family environments.

Objectives	Activities
3.1 Ensure families have access to early and middle childhood development services to support healthy family development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create hubs for families to access support in their own neighbourhoods • Increase awareness of available services and resources
3.2 Provide families with opportunities for engagement in their own neighbourhood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster: a sense of belonging, resiliency, family cohesion, safety and empathy in families.
3.3 Provide additional support for children who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are living in poverty • Have a delay or disability • Are immigrants and refugees • Are Aboriginal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on existing strengths in neighbourhoods / neighbourhood hubs • Remove barriers to programs and services, and create universal access. • Review existing programs and services within the context of the SX6 2013 Family Centered Practice and Infrastructure and Relational or Value Based Barriers

"I got to know a lot of new friends, and we can share our experience together." (ESL Grandparent)

"The good news is I get a full time job in New West ...I do appreciate you gave me the opportunity as volunteer in your program, and being my reference."

Goal # 4: Educate the broader community about the value of investing in healthy child development.

Objectives	Activities
4.1 Increase knowledge of best practices to support healthy development of all children aged 0-12 years old.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise awareness of, and educate the public on the significance of the early and middle childhood years with regards to long-term healthy human development.
4.2 Engage the community in supporting children and their families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foster a sense of membership in the community• Developing a children's charter, mentors and family-centered programs• Connect key messages to research• Build on existing research and communication

Appendix 1: Committee Membership

- Cameray Child and Family Services
- City of New Westminster:
 - Social Planning
 - Parks, Culture and Recreation
 - The New Westminster Public Library
- Family Services of Greater Vancouver
- Kids Childcare
- Lower Mainland Purpose Society
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Simon Fraser Society for Community Living
- New Westminster Family Place
- New Westminster Inter-ministerial Committee
- School District 40
- United Way of the Lower Mainland
- Western Society for Children
- YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral

Appendix 2: Key Local Partners

New Westminster Public Partners Child Development Committee (NWPPCDC): The NWPPCDC focus on the healthy childhood development (0-12) needs of the community through the development of four neighbourhood Early Childhood Development Hubs. Members of this committee include representatives from the City of New Westminister, Parks, Culture and Recreation and Social Planning; Fraser Health; the Ministry of Children and Family Development; School District No. 40, New Westminister; and the United Way of the Lower Mainland.

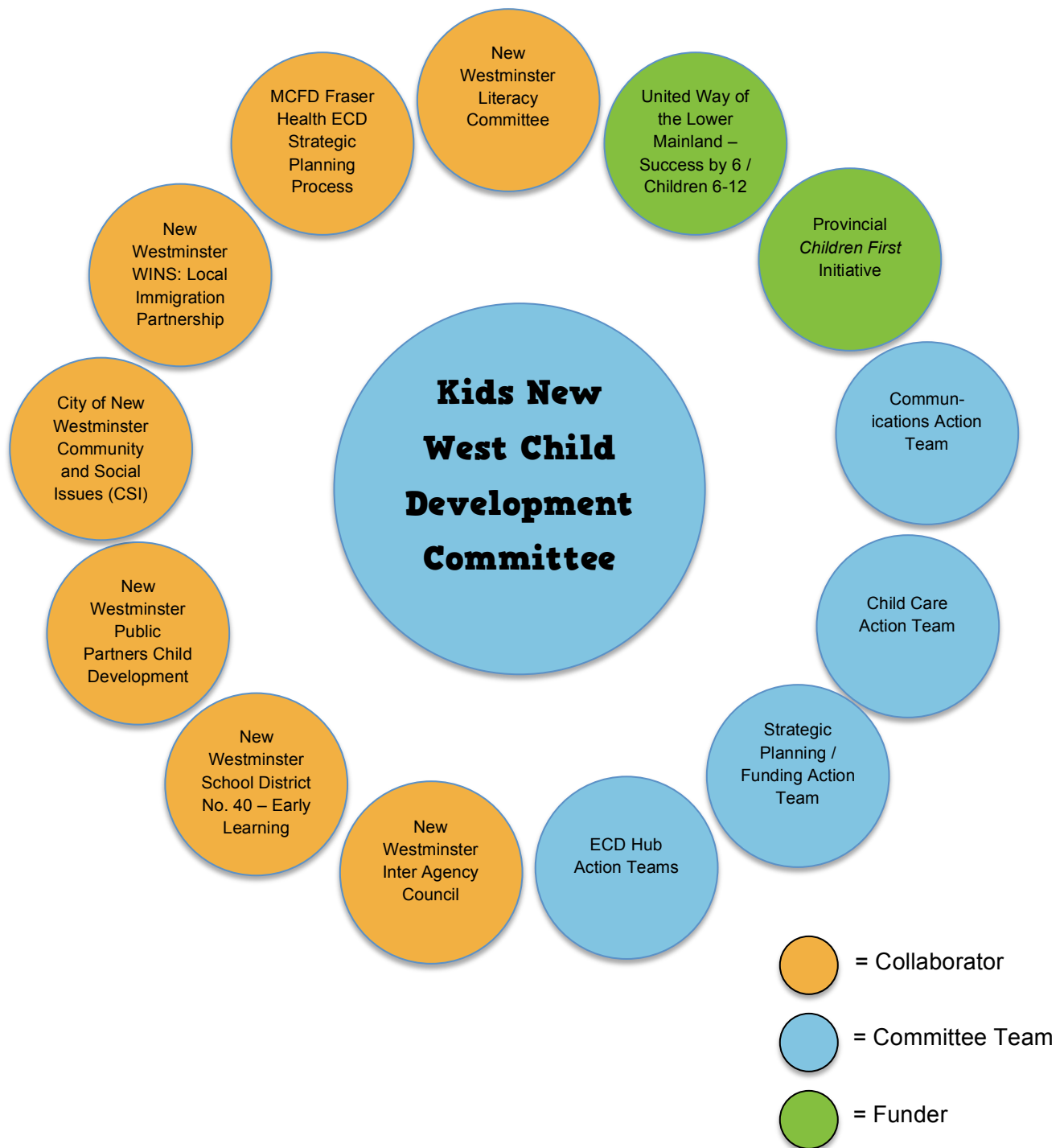
Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC): Formed in 2007 in recognition of School District No. 40, New Westminister's expanded mandate, the Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC) includes representation from the Kids New West Committee as well as other local agencies and committees working with young children. This committee acts as the advisory body for the future development of early learning projects in the District.

New Westminister Literacy Committee (NWLC): In 2005 the New Westminister Literacy Committee was established to address local, community, literacy needs. From 2008 to 2009, the ECD Committee worked with School District No. 40, the City of New Westminister and the NWLC (formerly Literacy Now) to develop a Community Literacy Plan.

New Westminister Interagency Council: The New Westminister Interagency Council has a mission to provide a forum for service providers to join together in making recommendations on the development and delivery of community services in New Westminister.

New Westminister WINS: Local Immigration Partnership: Welcoming and Inclusive Communities is an initiative developed in partnership between the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, and the Multiculturalism and Inclusive Communities Office of the Ministry of Attorney General. WINS is a collaboration of community and immigrant services organizations and the City of New Westminister with the aim to create a more welcoming and inclusive community for immigrants and refugees. WINS projects included creating more welcoming public spaces for immigrants and refugees, helping to build more inclusive workplaces and increasing community awareness and understanding of immigrant integration issues.

Appendix 3: Organizational Chart



Appendix 4: Socio-Economic Demographics

New Westminster: 2011 National Census Household Data			
Population Growth 2006 - 2011	7, 425 (12.7%)	Population that can speak English	63,483 (97.4%)
Population of New Westminster	65,976	Non-official languages spoken at home	
Children	8,610	Panjabi (Punjabi)	730
0 – 5 years	3,785	Tagalog (Filipino)	1,185
6-12 years	3,737	Mandarin	1,355
Population by neighbourhood		Chinese, not specified	955
Connaught Heights	1,825	Korean	770
Downtown - Stewardson	11,195	Cantonese	630
Queens Park	2,840	Russian	570
Queensborough	7,130	Spanish	545
Sapperton	5,430	Romanian	500
Uptown	7,935	Persian (Farsi)	425
Couples with children	6,445 (21.1%)	Arabic	300
Number of lone-parent families	2,515 (8.2%)	Serbian	290
Female lone-parent families	2,195 (87%)	Hindi	240
Male lone-parent families	560 (22%)	Arabic	300
Median household income	\$54,664	Serbian	290
Low income population	10,980 (17%)	Hindi	240
Children under 6 years old	745 (7%)	Polish	210
0 – 17 years	1,780 (16%)	Bulgarian	210
Moved within the past 5 years	31, 575 (51%)	Immigrant population	21,740 (33.4%)
Aboriginal Population	2,240 (3.4%)	Age at Immigration	
Visible Minority Population	22,615 (34%)	0 – 4 years old	1,835
South Asian	5,495 (8%)	5 – 14 years old	3,895
Chinese	5,540 (8%)		
Filipino	4,765 (7%)		
Black	1,150 (2%)		
Korean	1,135 (2%)		
Latin American	1,145 (2%)		
West Asian	770 (1%)		
Japanese	775 (1%)		
Southeast Asian	650(.9%)		
Multiple visible minority	510 (.7%)		
Arab	550(.8%)		

Glossary of Terms

BC ECD Funders Network

To create integrated evaluation and reporting systems for programs supporting healthy early childhood development, by developing long term outcomes that parallel the reporting requirements of the provinces to the federal government (ECD Evaluation Project – Why It Matters!, January 2010, and Community Capacity Building Initiatives in BC 2009 Progress Report). There are nineteen representatives that include: Service Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, National Crime Prevention, Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Ministry of Health (now Healthy Living and Sport), Ministry of Education, Child and Youth office, Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP), City of Vancouver, United Way of the Lower Mainland (Success By 6 BC), Vancouver Foundation, 2010 Legacies Now, and Variety Club.

Children First

A provincial community development initiative, through MCFD, that supports communities to identify and develop an integrated and comprehensive model of ECD service delivery for children from birth to 6 and their families. These funds are used to support direct programs and services, and community development activities.

ECD

Early Childhood Development, the development of children from birth to age 6 based on 5 developmental domains, including: physical health and well-being; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive development, and communication skills and general knowledge.

EDI

Early Development Index, developed by Dr. Dan Offord and Dr. Magdalena Janus at the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University, is a research questionnaire completed by kindergarten teachers for each child in their class that measures the school readiness of kindergarten children. EDI data is interpreted at the neighbourhood, community, district and provincial level.

HMI

New Westminster was one of 6 communities in BC to participate in the first pilot of the Heart-Mind Index with the Dalai Lama Centre for Peace and Education and HELP. Currently, HELP is embarking on a validity testing of the HMI as a population health tool.

HELP

Human Early Learning Partnership, a collaborative, interdisciplinary, research network based at the University of British Columbia. The research explores how different environments and experiences contribute to inequalities in children's development.

Investment

A contribution of resources (e.g. time, talent, money, knowledge) with the expectation of direct or mutual benefit/result.

MCFD

Ministry of Children and Family Development, the provincial government ministry with primary responsibility for children and families in B.C.

MDI

Middle Years Development Instrument, a Grade 4 child self-report survey that gathers information from children on their social and emotional development; physical health and well-being; relationships and connectedness with: parents, school and neighbourhood adults, and peers; school experiences; and how they spend their time during the after-school hours. The MDI research shows that children's well-being increases with the number of assets present in their lives with regards to: positive relationships with adults and peers, nutrition and sleep, a sense of school belonging, and after school activities.

Success by 6

Success by 6 is an ECD initiative, through United Way, dedicated to providing all children with a good start in life. It helps to ensure that children ages birth to 6 develop the emotional, social, cognitive, and physical skills they need as they enter school. These funds are used to support direct programs and services.

UWLM

United Way of the Lower Mainland, a local branch of the United Way of Canada, UWLM provides financial support to community agencies to enhance the life of their citizens.

Vulnerable

A child who is, based on EDI scores, developmentally behind where we would like them to be. Vulnerability in the early years is a predictor of how children will do long term.

Resources

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