

# Surrey Early Speech and Language Program Newsletter

Alex Lay Amanda Goodison Linda Spencer

Fall 2010



## Annual General Meeting 2010... Mark your calendars!

Each year we invite stakeholders to our annual meeting as a way of updating them on our work, to meet other families (free childcare provided) and to recognize our generous volunteers and donors. On **Wednesday, December 1, 2010** the BC Family Hearing Resource Society will host its annual general meeting starting at 6:30 PM. We look forward to seeing you all there.

## Our New ED ....



On April 1, 2010, we were excited to welcome Noreen Simmons as our new Executive Director of the BC Family Hearing Resource Society. She has

been with the Society since 2005 as a practising clinician and researcher with the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre. Upon accepting her new position, Noreen said, "Although I begin a new job, my priorities remain the same. I will continue to uphold the mission, philosophy, and the values of the organization and be committed to maintaining high standards in service delivery." Noreen extends her invitation to contact her if you have any suggestions, questions or concerns at any time.

## Welcome back ...

We are pleased to have Amanda back with us after a year of parental time. We're glad to have her as part of our team.

We are also happy to have Alex remain with the team two days a week while she spends the other three days a week working for the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre (also part of the BC Family Hearing Resource Society).

## A big Thank You.....

A big Thanks go out to all who have donated over the past 6 months.

Potter Family	Samra Family
Gamugamu Family	Gribble Family
Foster Family	Garner Family
Val Matthews	Tyler Rusk
Alex Lay	Spencer Family
Stephanie Schiffmacher	

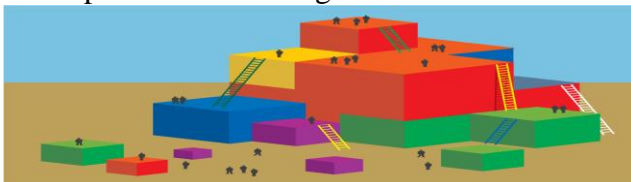
Joe Taylor (Joe was seen through our program before he entered school. He chose to ask for money instead of gifts for his 6<sup>th</sup> birthday and then donated it to the Surrey Early Speech and Language Program....a wonderful act of kindness from one so young.)



## Getting Support for your Child: What's Available in Our Community?

By Amanda Goodison

Your child has been referred for speech and language services. Now what? You may be wondering if you should be investigating other services that would also support your child's development and learning.



Early Intervention strives to provide children with the necessary supports early on in their development, minimizing future need for intervention, and reaching the child while they are still in the crucial developmental period for a particular skill set. Because of the importance of early intervention, and because waitlists for services can be long, it is important to think about accessing applicable services as soon as possible.

Turn over for more →→→→

Below you will find information on what support and services may be available to you in our community.



- Hearing test - when we receive your referral for speech/language services, we automatically refer your child for a hearing test at your local Health Unit, unless it has been indicated on our referral form that they have already been referred or tested. When your child's hearing is tested, if there are concerns regarding middle ear function, he or she may be referred on to an Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) Specialist.
- Pediatrician - your family doctor can refer you to a pediatrician, who specializes in children's health. A Developmental Pediatrician may be particularly helpful in pinpointing areas of your child's development that he or she may be struggling with. Your pediatrician may wish to make a referral for further assessment of overall learning and development, such as those performed by the BCAAN and CDBC Teams at Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children (see below).
- BC Autism Assessment Network & Complex Developmental & Behavioural Conditions Network – If you have concerns that your child might be exhibiting signs of autism or complex developmental and behavioural concerns, your pediatrician can refer you to the assessment team at Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children. For autism assessment, your family doctor can also make the referral.
- Mental Health – if your child is experiencing excessive anxiety that is interfering with learning, he or she can be referred to the mental health program in your area. You, as the parent or legal guardian, can make the referral yourself, or have a healthcare professional assist you in making the referral. (604-951-5917)
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) – if your child requires an alternative mode of communication, your pediatrician can refer you to the Assistive Technology Team at Sunny Health Centre for Children.
- Feeding Resource Team – If your child has **significant** feeding and swallowing issues (e.g. choking), your doctor may refer your child to the Centre for Child Development's Feeding Resource Team.



- Speech-Language Pathologists in private practice can be found on the directory of private practitioners at [www.bcaslpa.ca](http://www.bcaslpa.ca). Surrey Memorial Hospital also has a fee-for-service outpatient program for children with speech and language needs. (604-585-5674)
- Supported Child Development - If your child is over three and is having difficulty at preschool (difficulties following routines, transitioning from one activity to another, and/or interacting appropriately with other children), a referral to Supported Child Development may be in order. A Supported Child Development Consultant can offer ideas and strategies to the preschool teacher, and may be able to arrange one-to-one classroom support for your child. (604-584-1361)
- IDP - The Infant Development Program works with children under three years of age who have a developmental delay or who are at risk of developmental delay. Children who are premature or have any presenting concerns at birth may qualify for this program. (604-590-7302)
- Daycare/preschools – if you are looking for a daycare or preschool in your area, you can contact the Childcare Options Resource and Referral Program at (604) 572-8032. This program can also help you with applying for a childcare subsidy.
- Parks & Rec – Search the leisure guide for programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Board. Parks & Rec is also offering preschools. The YMCA also offers programs where children can socialize and have interactions with other children. Some children qualify for one-to-one support during these programs.
- Library – most community libraries offer story times and other drop-in programs. Story times are also offered in various languages for ESL speakers. You can learn more by visiting [www.surreylibraries.ca](http://www.surreylibraries.ca)
- Family Place – Community neighbourhood houses that offer drop-in programs and playtimes for parents, caregivers and children aged 0-6. For other community programs offered by Options: Services to Community Society, visit [www.options.bc.ca](http://www.options.bc.ca)



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15220 - 92nd Avenue, Surrey, BC V3R 2T8 Tel: (604)584-2827 Fax: (604)584-2800

[www.seslp.org](http://www.seslp.org) [info@seslp.org](mailto:info@seslp.org)

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