

Surrey Early Speech and Language Program Newsletter

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The Power of Play!

By Amanda Goodison

How can we encourage children to learn about their world, practice their motor skills, learn to communicate, make social connections, take turns, and problem-solve without even knowing they are practicing these skills? Easy! Play, play, and more play!

Play is an incredibly crucial part of development, and the best part is, children learn through play because it is so much fun! Even children with limited communication skills respond to and enjoy playing. Play offers the opportunity for tons of repetition, which reinforces the skills a child is learning. Children are also more likely to learn and remember when they can use all their senses to experience new things. Play encourages the use of multiple senses (seeing, touching, hearing, smelling, tasting) to explore the world. Another wonderful thing about play is that there isn't just one correct answer, like there is in math. Children can always find new and creative ways to play with something or invent new rules to an old game.

Just like speech and language, gross motor skills, and fine motor skills, play typically develops in a set sequence. As you will see, the development of play runs parallel to development of movement as well as cognitive development and language development.

DEVELOPMENT OF PLAY AND OTHER SKILLS



0-6 months – Movement goes from being reflexive to more deliberate (grasping, transferring objects from hand to hand). Can focus on one thing at a time.



6-9 months – Move from sensory experience to goal-oriented experience, can grasp items in a variety of ways, sitting, crawling, pulling to stand, developing more independence, start to clap/bang toys, start of early social interaction with other babies.



9-12 months - Increased spatial awareness, knows something still exists even if it is not immediately visible or in the room (object permanence), enjoys “peekaboo” games, puts things in containers, begins to stack things up and then knock them down, begins to imitate simple motor activities.



12-18 months – Puts several objects into container, imitates, stacks in a controlled manner, can discriminate shapes, use of tools (e.g. pulling stool to reach something), early problem-solving



18-24 months – visual matching (e.g. shape sorters), lines things up in rows, imitates strokes in drawing, increased problem-solving and use of tools, symbolic use of objects (e.g. pretends to drink from stacking cup), matches objects to their location or function.



24-30 months – simple symbolic play, dress-up play, playing with dolls, can turn pages of a book singly, draws circles, understanding and use of the word “circle.”



3 years – extend symbolism to pretend play, language-guided problem-solving, use of language in pretend play, throws a ball overhand, draws in several directions, re-creates a model, sequences 3 objects or words



4 years-expanded model-building, adding detail to drawings, counts to three, understands concepts such as light/heavy, wet/dry, sink/float, skips, balances on one foot, traces shapes, can manipulate scissors



5 years – spontaneous play moves into the real world, (e.g. helping wash the car, bake cookies), team activities, sports, play is bound by shared rules (e.g. tag, ball games, board games, card games), play has many steps and more complexity, hops on one foot, mature skipping, tracing more detailed shapes (such as letters), draws people, sequences 4 items/words, identifies several colours.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL PLAY

- Follow your child's lead
- Play according to your child's interests and level
- Be flexible (there is no “right” answer).
- Redirect child's attention or remove the toy if play is destructive
- Allow your child to be creative

And now that you have seen some of the many benefits of play, as well as the developmental sequence, the most important thing to remember is that the object of play is to **HAVE FUN!!!**

Accreditation -- What's It All

By Ellen Peterson, Acting Executive Director, Business & Resource Development Manger

If you've been around our center lately you may have heard the buzz - Accreditation is coming, Accreditation is coming! You may be wondering -- Why are staff running around tidying up, straightening pictures, re-organizing offices? What's this accreditation thing all about? What impact does it have on my child and the services we receive?

Across the province and around the world, organizations that provide services to children and families are embracing accreditation for their programs. Achieving accreditation is now a requirement from our provincial funder to ensure that provincial money is spent on the best possible programming for our children. Being accredited demonstrates that we comply with the highest possible internationally-accepted standards of organizational integrity and service provision.

Who Is the Accrediting Body?

BCFHRS has chosen to be accredited through the Council of Accredited Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), an international non-profit organization based in Tucson, Arizona with a Canadian office in Edmonton. Since 1966 CARF has assisted organizations like ours, throughout Canada and the United States, in achieving and maintaining top-notch programming for their clients and a first-rate working environment for their staff.

What Does Accreditation Involve?

We completed our first Accreditation Survey at BCFHRS in 2005. To prepare for that survey, we reviewed policies, developed surveys, refined outcomes measurements, created file review protocols, and completed dozens of other small and large tasks aimed at demonstrating our compliance with the standards. When we felt we were ready, we invited CARF to conduct a survey. The result was CARF's highest rating: a three-year accreditation. As it has been almost three years now, we are close to our second survey.

When's The Next Survey? What Will Happen?

Our next CARF survey is scheduled for March 27th and 29th 2008. At that time a team of surveyors will be sent by CARF to inspect our facilities, review our policies and processes, and interview staff, clients, parents, our Board, our funders, and anyone else they can schedule in. Their purpose is to ensure that we do, in fact, comply with the standards. The successful outcome will be another three-year accreditation and the beginning of a new accreditation cycle.

Praise from CARF

Here are some things the Surveyors said about us in 2005:

"This facility is a model for the population it serves."

"The assistive technology devices and the techniques reflect excellence in the delivery of services and are exceptional in including cutting-edge attention to the advancements of the field."



How Can I Learn More?

- Visit the CARF website www.carf.org OR www.carfcanada.ca
- Visit the BC Government website www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/accreditation
- Ask staff

So don't be surprised when you see buzzing around the Centre. We're doing everything we can to get ready for our big week in the Spring! Oh, and would you mind straightening that picture over there? Ah, thanks!

Staff Changes ...

Susan Lane, Executive Director, has moved to the



Early Hearing Program effective January 2008. As we recruit a new Executive Director, an interim leadership team has been appointed. Ellen Peterson, Business & Resource Development Manager is the Acting Executive Director, Linda Spencer is our Program

Leader for the Surrey Early Speech & Language Program and Judy Chrastina is the Program Leader for our BC Family Hearing Resource Centre Program.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the leadership team. We are available to assist you and your families in the interim and are committed to the family-centered care that is the core of our programs and services.

We wish Susan all the best in her endeavours and thank her for all her support and guidance over the 17 years our program has existed.

Ivana Kranjec joined the administration team in



Fall 2007. Ivana brings with her technical and administration expertise that will help support the program staff and our clients. Welcome Ivana!

Walking for Bright Futures

Save this Date

It's that time again! Lace up your walking/running shoes and join us on MAY 25 for the Elks and Royal Purple Annual Walk-a-thon. The walk site is Campbell Valley Regional Park once again.

Watch our website and your mail box for more details coming soon.



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