

EARLY SCREENING FOR PAEDIATRIC DEVELOPMENT

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ISSUE



Studies indicate that one third of kindergarten students in BC display vulnerabilities in one or more areas of critical development.

This figure has persisted at this rate, over the past 13 years. Kindergarten age is the first universal assessment of children's development at age five or six. No universal developmental screening protocol exists for children before this age. Developmental vulnerabilities in children can be detected and addressed during the pre-school stage, but at this time, there is no universal screening before Kindergarten in BC.

AGES AND STAGES

The ages and stages questionnaire, or early development instrument is a tool that can be utilized from two months of age to sixty months. This questionnaire assesses developmental milestones along with social and emotional development. The toddler development index will be used in conjunction with these questionnaires to assess the family setting and their direct influences of social determinants of health.

Family Action Network (FAN) is an organization that focuses on linking families to community resources, and encouraging all community resources and supports to invest in families and children.

ACTIONS

- Reach out to key stakeholders, paediatric programming and facilities in the Castlegar area
- Create a brochure of available Castlegar resources
- Obtain ages and stages and social emotional questionnaire training
- Participate in an ages and stages developmental check in workshop day
- Conduct literature review and research regarding health promotion, the importance of early screening, as well as, teaching and learning strategies to increase interest and enhance parental participation.

PURPOSE/ GOALS



Normalise the screening process

By enhancing community awareness around the significance developmental check-ins.



Enhance ages and stages opportunities

Expand ages and stages programs to Castlegar area by reaching out to key community stakeholders.



Diminish barriers

Increase participation by decreasing barriers and utilizing effective engagement strategies.



NEXT STEPS

Moving forward, in the new year of 2019, FAN will work closely with data collection checkpoints for the ages and stages and TDI questionnaires. Following data collection, FAN hopes to receive data that can be utilized to gear local programs and educational centers towards specific children's needs, developmental vulnerabilities and social determinants of health in our local communities.

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