Planting the Seeds for Success

Amber Kosiancic | 4th Year Nursing Student | University of Victoria at Selkirk College

Opportunity

The use of early and regular developmental screening tools for children creates a system of monitoring and tracking a child's development allowing for parents to be more informed and aids in identifying little hurtles before they become big bumps.

Background

The Early Childhood index released by the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 2016 states 32.2% children in British Columbia have a vulnerability in one or more areas of development; these children may or may not have been connected to community screening prior to entering kindergarten.

To understand the contextual factors that contribute to the early years the Family Action Network, in collaborative with HELP, have developed the Toddler Development Instrument, for parents of 16-20 month old children. The purpose is to better understand the early lived experiences of toddlers and their families, connect families to resources and elicit further systems of support for families.

Initiatives

The focus of the project was working with two initiatives with the Family Action Network (FAN). The first initiative was looking into how best to connect families to resources in the community, based on the needs they stated during the TDI.

The second initiative was professional development and growth within FAN through initiating the collaboration and exchange of ideas with Health Care Professionals at Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital on ways to improve and promote early childhood development. The key focus was to encourage health care professionals to become influencers in community based screening.

Family Action Network

Family Action Network of the Lower Columbia is an active network of people who understand the importance of early childhood development, working together in the Lower Columbia to make our region the best place to raise a family.

"If developmental delays are detected too late, opportunities for early intervention may be lost."
- Psuls Mackrides & Susan Ryherd

Selkirk College