



# Salmon Arm Early Childhood Development Committee History and Project Funding

## **HISTORY**

The Salmon Arm Early Childhood Development Committee is a community-based group with representation from parents and professionals who are committed to raising community awareness about the importance of the early years. We use current research to guide our decisions and when setting priorities. We were originally established in 2003 as the Shuswap Early Childhood Development Committee. At this time, we were a committee including Salmon Arm and all Shuswap surrounding communities.

Upon a 2013 review of the changing landscape of ECD in the Shuswap region, the committee determined the Salmon Arm Early Childhood Development Committee was a better descriptor. We continue to maintain the overall goal of the original committee and do this through a variety of programs, initiatives and activities focused in Salmon Arm. Between 2003 and 2013, the surrounding Shuswap communities of Sicamous, Enderby and the North & South Shuswap have formed their own ECD committees and as such a portion of the funds has been allocated to support their tables. The initial ECD Core committee (made up of the active members) has evolved as the need to direct and allocate the ECD funds around the entire Shuswap is decided upon by each individual table.

The primary funds the Salmon Arm Early Childhood Development Committee guides and directs are the Children First, Success By Six and Building Blocks funds which are hosted by the Shuswap Children's Association (SCA). The Building Blocks funds are currently the base funds used for the programs, activities and initiatives directed by the Salmon Early Childhood Development Committee.

## **PROJECT FUNDING (SOURCES A, B & C)**

If there are sufficient funds for new projects, the ECD Committee core members will review the requests collectively. If the individual member or their agency has submitted an application, they will not participate in the review and decision making. The ECD Committee core members will make the decision regarding the project/budget request at the scheduled ECD monthly meeting.

The project request will require an outline of the project's activities, expectations of its results and a budget. The ECD committee will require a brief report upon completion of the project.



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## FUNDING SOURCES

### FUNDING SOURCE A

**Building Blocks** to build parental capacity to support the healthy development of children during preconception to age 6. Programs provide a variety of supports, including but not limited to programs such as:

- Toy Lending Libraries
- Nobody's Perfect Parenting
- Roots of Empathy
- Home Visiting
- Parent-Child Drop-In
- Parent-Child Mother Goose
- Family Literacy Centres
- Pregnancy Outreach

The programs, by promoting a community approach to supporting families, need to address one or more of the following areas:

1. Promote healthy pregnancy, birth and infancy:
  - a. Promotion and prevention activities – pregnant women, families, community including FASD prevention;
  - b. Early identification of children at risk of delay;
  - c. Facilitate access and referral to support services.
2. Improving parenting and family supports:
  - a. Support for parents to promote physical, intellectual and social development of children;
  - b. Parent education;
  - c. Promotion of positive parent/child interaction.
3. Strengthening community supports:
  - a. Linking parents to formal and informal supports that enhance parental capacity;
  - b. Assist communities in acquiring the capacity and resources to support children and families.



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## **FUNDING SOURCE B**

**Children First** to support communities to identify and develop an integrated and comprehensive model of ECD service delivery for children 0-6 and their families. It is not a program that delivers services directly to children and families. It can, however, allocate initiative funds to support service delivery priorities identified by community planning.

Objectives of Children First initiatives are:

- Increase community capacity
- Increased service delivery effectiveness
- Engaging “hard to reach” families
- Increased opportunities for early identification and screening
- Improving outcomes for children and families.

By providing 500 hours of co-ordinator service annually, the co-ordinator shall work in collaboration with the community, steering the committee in order to co-ordinate the activities of the initiative.

Activities:

- a) The development, or enhancement, of a coalition of service providers and community members interested in healthy early childhood development. This group will have broad inter-sectoral representation. One of the roles of this group will be to act as the steering committee to the initiative;
- b) The engagement of an individual to co-ordinate all of the activities of the initiative;
- c) The participation of the Aboriginal, and as appropriate, other multi-cultural communities;
- d) The development of a strategic plan for the initiative, articulating goals, objectives, activities and intended outcomes;
- e) Evaluation of the achievement of the objectives of the initiative;
- f) The joint creation (with all other coalition members) of a community Early Childhood Development plan – identifying local needs and priorities for young children and their families along with strategies to address to those priorities;
- g) The development of innovative ways to use and/or link existing Early Childhood Development resources and services more effectively and efficiently;



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- h) Community engagement and mobilization. A range of activities to involve community members in support of young children and families;
- i) Public awareness activities designed to increase the understanding of the importance of the early years.
- j) Community research – to include a review of existing Early Childhood Development assets, socio-economic characteristics of the community, information (EDI) on school readiness, and an overview of early childhood development “best practice”;
- k) The development of a mechanism(s) for making information about the Early Childhood Services and supports in the community widely available;
- l) A focused review and plan to enhance early identification and screening activities in the community;
- m) Strategies to engage “hard to reach” families in the community, including the identification and response to the barriers that limit access to services.

### **FUNDING SOURCE C**

**Success by Six** two separate streams of funding are provided with up to 15% permitted to move from Strategic Implementation to Community Capacity:

- Strategic Implementation – direct programs and services for families and young children - \$6,000
- Community Capacity – ECD co-ordination, resource development, public awareness, training, etc.