



## FRP-BC Support and Ideas Check-In Call June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 Summary

**Attendees:** Range of FRPs in terms of size, number of programs, geographical location, and type of programs. 30 participants.

### **Update on FRP-BC's Call with MCFD Early Years Directors of Operations**

FRP-BC's Provincial Director Tara Nargang met with MCFD Early Years Directors of Operations (DOPs) recently to discuss the challenges FRPs are facing considering COVID-19, including challenges to re-opening, supports needed, and communication between DOPs and FRPs. During the presentation, FRP-BC also emphasized the importance of FRPs in prevention work, low barrier access, and the crucial support FRPs provide to families. MCFD Early Years will follow up with Tara regarding more information on a Provincial re-start document that may be more specific to FRPs as opposed to childcare centres, as well as more information on potential changes to contract/deliverables. The Directors are aware that there are concerns about funding and understand the need for re-allocation. Please note MCFD involvement in regional support calls below.

### **Regional Support Calls**

Call attendees were in favour of having regional support calls to supplement province-wide support calls. Regional calls will include regional themes, training, and support, as well as connections with MCFD Directors of Operations. Regional calls will also include Toddler Development Index (TDI) follow up training with regional data. FRP-BC will be organizing regional committees formed by FRP-BC members to ensure that the regional calls focus on relevant issues. Stay tuned for more info.

### **Current Programming**

- Many FRPs have been doing outdoor programming (limiting # of families)
- Some FRPs allow families that have been in each other's bubbles to come within 6 feet of each other, but otherwise, are enforcing physical distancing measures
- At one FRP, one box of toys assigned to each family and reserved for them to limit spread and minimize time spent disinfecting

## Outdoor Programming

### Challenges:

- Working with multiple municipalities, each with different guidelines (one FRP joined with a local library as this library was given priority access to park space)
- Bad weather
- Pre-registration required to limit #s but sometimes families show up without having registered- then the FRP is faced with having to choose who to allow to stay (some FRPs choose based on who is considered to be most vulnerable)
- Difficulty projecting voice- one FRP solved this issue by purchasing a voice amplifier

### Outdoor Activity Ideas:

- StoryWalk (<https://www.kellogghubbard.org/storywalk>)
- Billboard with resources
- Stroller walking group (6 families max, toddlers must be in their stroller)
- Nature scavenger hunt
- Alphabet scavenger hunt
- Bubble extravaganza
- Nature discovery to a park

## Virtual Programming

### Challenges:

- Participants don't feel comfortable doing certain programs virtually like Nobody's Perfect or Moms for Recovery due to trust needed
- Parents may be able to listen if engaging virtually, but may not feel comfortable speaking due to having children or other family members around

## Plans for Reopening

- Challenges in planning for September as everything changes so frequently
- One FRP will meet one week before September to decide how to move forward in the fall
- One FRP's facilities are owned by City and are closed till end of Aug so they can't plan
- Lots of paperwork involved in creating plans and protocols- challenge is lack of capacity/time and funding



## **Resources**

- [BC Council for Families Online Parenting Programs](#)
- [Family Support Institute of BC- Zoom Family Hang Outs Calendar](#)
- [FindSupportBC-](#) to connect families of persons with disabilities with resources
- [StoryWalk Resources](#)

*Acknowledging the Lekwungen People,  
traditional keepers of this land.*

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