



FRP-BC Support and Ideas Check In Call September 10th, 2020 Summary

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

Next call is set for Thursday, October 8th at 1pm.

Types of Programming and Adjustments for Fall

- Many FRPs have been doing outdoor programming and will be transitioning into indoor programming for the fall
 - Registration will be mandatory and capacity limited (numbers dependent on size of space)
 - One FRP indicated that they are planning to have the same families with the same staff on the same day each week, creating a bubble of sorts
 - One FRP will be doing a trial of indoor programming with two families first
- One FRP indicated that they will be continuing outdoor programming into the fall- they are only planning four weeks ahead at a time and not planning to move indoors
 - Will be putting up tarps for weather protection
 - No masks since they are outside
 - This FRP started outdoor programming rain or shine years ago so parents have gotten used to it
- Some FRPs are considering virtual programming but have found there are many challenges and are unable to reach most vulnerable families that way
- Drop In- are FRPs doing drop in?:
 - One FRP indicated that they are doing drop in and not requiring participants to register but they emphasized that they are a very small FRP within a small community
 - A northern FRP does drop in and now that they are moving indoors for the fall, they will make programs shorter and more frequent to accommodate participants
- Some FRPs have been doing certain programs indoors since June, such as Mom and Baby
- Some FRPs providing take-home craft kits, activity packs, snacks, recipe bags, care packages (with dental care, snacks, etc)

Outreach/Promotion

- Promotion by word of mouth
- One FRP asked current participants to spread the word to other families
- One FRP formed a partnership with their local library to do a park story time together where the library provides the storyteller and the FRP handles the physical distancing and resource board. This has brought the FRP into contact with many new families.
- To reach more vulnerable families, one FRP hands out recipe bags with the food
- One FRP sets up a table outside the centre with activity packs for families that happen to be walking by
- One FRP puts up a large resource board in the park where they do their programs and families can take pictures

Social Distancing/Hygiene Protocols

- **Masks:**
 - For outdoor programming, some FRPs indicated that they are not requiring adults to wear masks
 - Some FRPs indicated that they have been and will be asking parents to wear masks (especially when indoors); one FRP has children over the age of 2 wear masks
- **Social distancing:**
 - Some FRPs indicated that they have been asking adults to socially distance but not children, others indicated that they have children socially distance as well
 - One FRP noted that based on the provincial health guidelines, children should be kept apart too
- **Toy hygiene:**
 - Some FRPs create busy bags for children to use during the program and then clean the items before next child uses them
- **Snacks:**
 - Many FRPs pre-package snacks in Ziplock or plastic containers from a dollar store
 - Pre-made muffins, fresh fruit
 - One FRP has families bring their own snacks
- One FRP indicated that when families know you are putting in place necessary protocols, they feel more comfortable attending programs.

Outdoor Programming Ideas

- A couple FRPs use orange cones to mark the boundaries for each family (mini cones can be found at dollar store)
- One FRP gives parents the option of wiping down outdoor play structure before letting their child on
- One FRP is trying to fundraise to get raingear for kids
- One FRP indicated that their outdoor program facilitator uses voice amplifier and face shield
- One FRP compiled clothing donations from former participants and did a “free store”

Virtual Programming

- One FRP indicated that they’ve been having success with Zoom calls because they’ve been attaching materials.
 - Coming up, they’ll be hosting a virtual tea party- they found little teacups at a Dollar Store for families
 - They also provide snacks for the meetings (families pick up)- at each meeting, families can vote what the snack is for the next week.
- One FRP did a “Rest, Play, Grow” book club via Zoom and found it very successful. A literacy agency provided each family with a book. There were 8-10 families for 8 weeks.
- One FRP does reading via Zoom- read the book and do an activity to go with that book (it changes each week)
- Creston Valley Family Place finds virtual programs are successful when there is a theme.
 - For e.g. #HappyHealthyFamilies Contest consisting of weekly family challenges- for Father’s Day, the FRP gave every father a marshmallow stick and marshmallows and families were challenged to show where they went to roast their marshmallows.
 - To see more ideas for challenges, visit [Creston Valley Family Place’s Facebook page](#) and scroll to see each weekly challenge
- One FRP is running 6 virtual programs a week including circle time, activities (with bags that families have to pick up). However, this FRP is finding registrations really overwhelming.
- One FRP finds that it helps to use props when doing sing-along- children bring their own teddy bear to sing with
- Some FRPs finding virtual doesn’t work- Northern FRP indicates that internet connection is unreliable and some families don’t even have internet (the most vulnerable families)
- Born Healthy program via Zoom- opened up to alumni



Registration Tools

- Podio
- Calendly
- Security of info? -One FRP allows families to register using an alias, then when they come in person they have to confirm their contact info

Please contact admin@frpbc.ca if you have any questions or concerns.