



British Columbia Inventory of Parenting Programs & Services



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Background & Rationale



Photo: www.gettyimages.com/detail/stock-photo

Numerous services in British Columbia (BC) currently deliver parenting messages and materials, and within these, the mode of communication varies widely. What is needed is a provincial inventory, such that parents across the province will have equal access to existing information.

From a public health perspective, this project seeks to address unmet needs that parents and caregivers may have concerning access to information about the development of children between 0-5. Examples of unmet needs may include, but are not limited to:

- Challenges around transportation and access to community resources;
- Needs concerning basic shelter, food and clothing;
- Establishing a bond of attachment between parent and child; and
- There may be marital strife, disciplinary problems, sleep problems, delayed development, medical problems, and/or mental health problems.

Objectives

Objective 1:

Describe existing programs in the province of BC which provide information and services to parents of children between the ages of 0 – 5.

Objective 2:

Synthesize data collected regarding services for parents and children between the ages of 0 – 5 in a provincial database that will operate as a 'one-stop-shop' for parents who need information on a variety of services pertaining to parenting effectiveness.

Strategies

Phase 1: Literature and Best Practice Review

The Phase 1 literature review identified key themes and issues related to the following:

- 1) The role of parenting programs in improving the life chances of young children;
- 2) Different types of programs and their efficacy;
- 3) Whether current programs are meeting the needs of their target population; and
- 4) How the concept of social exclusion might play a role in unequal access to existing services.

Phase 2: Case Study Research (3 Rural Communities in Northwest BC)

Phase 2 consisted of case study analysis of 3 rural communities. Data collection for the case studies relied on multiple sources, including document analysis, site visits and in depth interviews (in person or telephone) with a cross-section of service providers in order to explore the linkages between community context and the delivery of parenting programs, services and information in greater depth. The following image depicts a map of the region.



Figure 1. Map of British Columbia. The case study research involved the communities of Prince Rupert, Kitimat and Terrace.

Phase 3: Database Design and Development

During Phase 3, the cross-case analysis formed the basis for the development of a provincial inventory. The database design is based on existing best practice examples of national inventories that are user friendly and accurate. Figure 2 depicts a best practice example.



Figure 2. Sample National Parenting Inventory "Parents Matter" by Family Resource Programs of Canada. Source: www.parentsmatter.ca

Results: Where Are We Now?

- Over 200 organizations have been captured in the current version of the provincial inventory.
- Data collection is expected to continue until 2011.
- In conjunction with continued data collection, a grant proposal will be written to secure funds which will allow for the development of a provincial reporting structure, such that organizations offering programs and services to parents with children between 0 – 5 will be required to log their information into the database and keep it updated.
- Project leads will pursue a formal partnership with interested stakeholders.

Discussion: From Research to Action

- The present level of cooperation and understanding between local practitioners, service providers and parents has to be improved if information that is easily and equitably accessible to all caregivers of children between 0 – 5 is to become a reality.
- Identification of barriers to access and unmet need for care can serve as the basis for program modification, with the ultimate public health goal of engaging more parents in appropriate services that meet their needs.



Photos: Prince Rupert School District <http://prsd92.bc.ca/>. Left to Right: Charles Hayes Secondary School in Prince Rupert, B.C., Totem poles in the town of Prince Rupert, B.C.

Partner Information

Infant Development Programs (IDP) in B.C. are family centred services and are designed to support families who are raising young children at risk for or with developmental delay or disabilities. The programs are well established and are available throughout most of B.C. Since the first program started in Vancouver in 1972, over 50,000 families have received service. Infant Development Consultants in 52 programs serve more than 6,000 families annually. The Ministry of Children and Family Development funds the programs and provides support at the community, regional and provincial levels.

Source: www.idpofbc.ca

