



Early Childhood Development Department

2nd Quarterly Report 2023-2024

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Reflecting the Strategic Plan

LEADERSHIP

GOAL: SELF-GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL IDENTITY OF SIB.

- ❖ Cultural Liaison Teacher comes to Centre daily to provide 4's and 3's preschool children with culturally based lessons including Halq'émeylem language lessons, local plant/animal/medicine lessons, and more.
- ❖ Head Start assistant has been coming to provide daycare children and 3's Preschool children with culturally based circles that include Halq'émeylem language, drumming and other culturally appropriate teachings.
- ❖ Staff members include Cultural activities and foods in their daily interactions with children that include language, drumming, songs, art, and snack items such as Bannock and other traditional foods.
- ❖ Include parents with newsletters incorporating SIB culture and language. Updates to program posted regularly to Facebook group.
- ❖ Meetings (virtual or in person) with staff, director, and elders to ensure inclusion.
- ❖ Newsletters / cultural calendar / ensure same messaging to all age groups / parents etc.
- ❖ Someone So Small and BEAR joined up to take their families on a fun fieldtrip to The Greater Vancouver Zoo. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed sharing pictures of their families.
- ❖ As Covid protocols have relaxed staff are able to visit more communities and children to provide support, resources, and more at Seabird and in other communities. We continue to receive new referrals and have been building relationships with new children, families and centres along the way.
- ❖ Someone So Small group is operating in three communities successfully. Programs have been reestablished in Shxw'Owhamel and Chawathil First Nations.
- ❖ More staff meetings and culturally based training for staff. BCACCS and other Indigenous organizations offer culturally based training for all staff at a reasonable cost and sometimes with no cost to participants).
- ❖ ECD staff was invited to participate in an in-house workshop provided by Mission Child Care Resource and Referral regarding transitions.
- ❖ Each program plans in advance for the coming months/year.
- ❖ Staff have begun, with many having completed, their HR training at the request of HR and Seabird Island Band.
- ❖ Some staff have taken workshops such as Puppets Help with Emotions, Understanding Behavior Issued Based on Attachment Theory, Complex Trauma, Linking with Infants & Toddlers and Engagement Experience for Infants & Toddlers. In many cases, more than one team member completed the training.
- ❖ Head Start program started up on September 19th with new staff.

- ❖ families attend Someone So Small group at Seabird and other locations. Family nights have been on hold since the beginning of Covid. Seabird Head Start program on hold due to lack of staffing
- ❖ Children in programs have participated in fieldtrips to Cottonwood 4 Cinemas with social distancing in place and private/small group showings.
- ❖ Seabird Island ECD Department now has a Facebook page to post upcoming events, cultural awareness posts, and other posts directly related to childcare, child raising, behavioral awareness and more. Parents are checking posts regularly and even posting personal photos from Drive thru Christmas and other activities.
- ❖ AIDP supported several families with preschool registration. Increased visits with families with health and safety measures.
- ❖ Welcome Back BBQ for AIDP, ASCDP, Ey Qwal and BEAR families.
- ❖ OOSC is running at full capacity. Daycare has had a children withdraw and some transition to Preschool but some infants and toddlers have transitions into 3-5's program and spaces have opened up to allow new children to attend.
- ❖ Back-To-School Days carnival in collaboration with Seabird Elementary Schools was a huge success with new backpacks for children, free haircuts, treats, games and pony rides.
- ❖ Seabird Island hosted Story Time in The Park/Children's Development Fair on August 2 with a huge turnout! Many people commented on how much they enjoyed our story, dancers and snacks!
- ❖ Maintaining collaboration with Hope Better Beginnings/Family Place, Yale, and Chawathil First Nations.

MEMBERSHIP

GOAL: ENGAGED, EMPOWERED AND SELF-SUFFICIENT SW'ÉWQELÓ:MEXW

- ❖ Having Cultural Teacher, elders, and Cultural Coordinator to help bring Cultural awareness and learning into all of our programs here at Seabird.
- ❖ Staff attended and participated in Health Fair at Sq'eweqel Band Office.
- ❖ All ECD departments closed for Canada Day, BC Day, Labour Day, & Truth & Reconciliation Day.

ENVIRONMENT

PROTECT AND ENHANCE S'ÓLH TÉMÉXW, INCLUDING LAND, WATER AND AIR CONSISTENT WITH TÓMIYEQW

- ❖ We recycle and reuse objects as much as possible. All paper is shredded.
- ❖ Seabird Island Head Start program will be creating a vegetable garden to provide fresh and nutritious foods to families.
- ❖ Head Start - Seabird started up on September 19th with new staff. New cook is preparing traditional foods for families to enjoy.
- ❖ BEAR staff has been teaching families to can their own foods and make preserves!
- ❖ 7 Sacred Teachings is implemented into program. Children and teachers enjoy nature and learning about our environment and the best ways to take care of our world.
- ❖ COVID protocols being given by Chief and Council thru the direction of the Directors

CULTURE, HEALING, HEALTH & WELLNESS

GOAL: ÁY:MEXW – HEALTHY PEOPLE, PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND SPIRITUALLY.

- ❖ Regular caseload meeting with MCFD programs. MCFD staff have assisted families with Preschool and Affordable Child Care Benefit applications.
- ❖ Administrative assistant has assisted many families to complete Affordable Child Care Benefits application online.
- ❖ Head Start - Seabird will be meeting once per month for Family Night.
- ❖ MCFD programs has hosted a Welcome Back BBQ and has made arrangements to host a Family Night with campfire, games and roasted hotdogs/Smores.
- ❖ Masks are no longer required when accessing Seabird ECD programs. Staff is sanitizing all surfaces and doing regular handwashing. Staff is staying home when ill and/or not feeling well.

INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL: AN ECONOMICALLY STABLE COMMUNITY THAT MEETS THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS FOR FUTURE GROWTH.

- ❖ We have received grants from United Way and First Nation's Health Authority to cover fees for most of our programs. 4's Preschool fees are covered by Nominal Roll for Indigenous Children and those who live on reserve. Affordable Child Care Benefit applications have been made for children in the OOSC program.
- ❖ We have started the process to build a new OOSC and Head Start building, completion date March 2024