



Understanding
the Early Years



Promoting optimum health and development of children from conception to age six in the South Okanagan and Similkameen

MINUTES

Monday Jan 15, 2007 7 pm at Ok Falls Public Library

Attending: Karen-Ann Atkinson, Ruell Smith, Mieke Smith, Christina Doherty, Sandy Walker, Pat Buckland

Approval of Minutes: Karen-Ann moved; Ruell seconded; passed

Agenda Additions: Baby Talk, photos for website, directory format, library programs and Family Literacy Day, Books for Babies

Coordinator's Report: distributed

Old Business:

Strong Start Early Learning Centre – report from Mieke and Christina - started in January – Dana Bedard is Coordinator; good turnout of children ages 3 days old to 4 years (up to 12 children); set up with reading area, crafts, display and distribution center of info; Christina's meeting parents there that she'd never met before.

- Recreation is partnering with SS for activities for the parents and children who attend; Janet is looking for ideas for age appropriate equipment for them (in touch with Sonora Centre and Osoyoos Child Care Centre for more ideas).
- Dana's been to the library for cards for her participants/books
- Christina suggests the need for a change table accessible for parents attending SS
- ACTION: Christina to check with Dana whether large appliance box would be suitable activity item for SS and for carpet roles at Volden's Carpets for play.
- ACTION: discussion at our next CFK meeting on how we can assist Dana and SS in any way. Mieke to invite Dana to our February 12 meeting.

Next Step: order in for BABY BOO board book for 6 month children. 20 books ordered for \$100 of the Royal Canadian Legion's donated \$200. Table suggests checking on Runaway Bunny and Goodnight Moon as options for age 12 months. Pat to check prices from United Library Services. Pat to design "vouchers" for the books that PH will dispense at clinics and forward to Elaine Stetsko at PH.

Ready Set Learn: no date set for party.

New Business:

Webpage for Ok Falls:

Additional Successes – trained Car Seat Technician, Ready Set Learn, Terrific Toddler

party, display tables at Ok Falls Days, school carnival and Kids Day. Directory, trained Mother Goose facilitator,
As well as previously listed Playground equipment, EC Learning Centre, Parent Conference

Links: www.okfallsrecreation.com, www.orl.bc.ca for library; preschool – OK Minischool doesn't have one; www.sd53.bc.ca for programs at Elementary for ages 5 & 6 and Ready Set Learn; regional for public health, www.rootsofempathy.ca will show regionally.

Discussion on inclusion of Helping Hands in website in some capacity: Pat to check with Lindsays if there is a website

ECD project for 2007: discussion next meeting – suggestion might be our connection with Strong Start Centre.

Additions:

Books for Babies: Library expects new batch of kits imminently. Could be 20 or 24. Women's Institute will collate all the materials inside the bags. Karen-Ann to check her schedule and maybe have a mom with baby to be part of a PSA through Ok Falls Review and Okanagan Sun along with Ruell and Legion. Tuesday not good. Pat will drop off sample BABY BOO for photo.

Baby Talk: Karen-Ann indicates BT runs a maximum for 12 sessions but it's possible to run with less; it's also possible to run in the community without its being under PH's umbrella. Karen-Ann will speak to new Coordinator at Strong Start Family Centre to see if SS would like to initiate a Baby Talk program in Ok Falls. Children are included in the Baby Talk sessions.

Library Programs for 0-6: Ruell has the following running:

- Ages 3-5: running 12 weeks from 1-2pm on Wed starting Feb 7
- Age under 3 & caregiver: running 8 weeks from 10-11am starting Feb 8.
- Ruell to send notice to Karen-Ann so she distribute to new moms she's visiting in Ok Falls

Photos for website: discussion on Ok Falls children photos – perhaps one on the piece of park equipment CFK funded. Christine may be able to attach photo for website. Noted that photos contributed by parent/s will automatically mean CFK can use on website without need for a release.

Family Literacy Day Jan 27: Ruell organizing something for that Saturday. Colouring sheets available through SO Community Literacy Program. Table members will distribute posters and colouring sheet in community.

Next meeting scheduled for Feb 12/07



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Monday Feb 12, 2007 7 pm at Ok Falls Public Library

Attending: Karen-Ann Atkinson, Ruell Smith, Mieke Smith, Sandy Walker, Pat Buckland
Guests: Dana Bedard of StrongStart, Jim Insley of SD53

Approval of Minutes: passed

Agenda Additions: Baby Talk, photos for website, directory format, library programs and Family Literacy Day, Books for Babies

Coordinator's Report: distributed

Old Business:

Strong Start Early Learning Centre

- Jim indicates SD has funds to operate here because Cawston's having a difficult time finding space to start a StrongStart; backing off request for Success by 6 funds. No proposal to access the \$20,000.
- Great media coverage at opening lead to increase in numbers: 14 adults/caregivers; 17 children. There are 34 children registered – complete slip and permission for photos
- Moms are building friendships – one mom said she'd felt so lonely in Ok Falls
- Change table in the classroom now
- Grandparents, friends
- Many thanks to Garry Sutherland, Mieke Smith, Lisa McCall and Linda Thiel for giving to much support at startup.

Next Step: Photo opportunity at Library – Mom, Trudy and her baby, Valerie MacGee of Legion, Karen-Ann and Ruell in photo for the 3 newspapers.

Ruell will hand out coupons for 6 and 12 month old children rather than Public Health. It's too complicated given Ok Falls babies are not separate from PH's Penticton listings.

ACTION: Pat to submit photo with info about NS to Ok Review, Okanagan Sun and Valley View monthly.

Ready Set Learn: CFK to have a display table there on February 26. Mieke to provide updated Directory. Ruell's going to be away. She'll provide some library info to go on CFK Table.

Recreation Programs: very successful, good turnout to all 0-6 sessions.

Family Literacy Day Jan 27:

Ruell reports a book draw every ½ hour. Poster supplied by Mary Kiviste with SO Community Literacy Project very successful – required parent and child to colour. K and Grade 1 teachers collected at school – received 19 posters. Bill Schwartz, the RDOS rep, did the draws. Ruell had \$150 for books for draws for adults and children. Ruell felt she'd like to have seen more turned posters in. How to arrange that next year?

New Business:

Success by 6 funds: Discuss options for alternative to put forward for SB6 funds for Ok Falls.

Possibly to supply play space equipment for the Rec Centre to run a Tumble Bumble. In Feb 05, CFK had received a request for assistance in purchasing large motor skill equipment but CFK had reached the limit so could not support.

Pat to check with Janet re:wish list for equipment.

MOTION: in principle, to complete a proposal for equipment for Tumble Bumble to be shared with StrongStart and possibly pre-school.

Moved by: Karen-Ann Atkinson Seconded by: Mieke Smith Passed.

ECD project for 2007: next meeting we'll look at our connection with Strong Start Centre.

READ NOW BC projects info: not available til fall of 07.

OK Falls School Carnival: In May – we should have a display table.

Additions:

Bulletin Board for Ok Falls in Public Health Clinic (around the corner from the school admin office) – Karen-Ann would like to have some directories there and info about preschool and after-school programs. Mieke will supply directories. Bonnie perhaps could supply info to Karen-Ann for other areas.

Membership of CFK Table: Pat to invite Faye Arcand, column writer for OkReview and PAC person, to join Table as a “parent”.

Books for Babies: Karen-Ann to pick up from Ruell with directories to insert when they're back from the Women's Institute who are collating all the parts.

Directories: Mieke to add a listing of Police, Fire etc to directory for parents' convenience. She would also like to add a Welcome Wagon contact. Pat to check with provincial trainer for WW in Osoyoos to check you covers OK Falls.

Next meeting: scheduled for March 12



COMMUNITIES FOR KIDS

MINUTES

Monday, March 12, 2007, 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

Attending: Karen-Ann Atkinson, Ruell Smith, Mieke Smith
Guest Speaker: Patricia Gregory of Understanding Early Years

Approval of Minutes: passed

Agenda Additions: New book for “Next Step” part of Books for Babies

Guest Speaker: Patricia Gregory distributed draft copies of the Understanding Early Years asset maps for Okanagan Falls. The table suggested a number of corrections to the maps. Patricia then demonstrated how to use the website.

Old Business:

SB6 proposal

- tabled until the next meeting

Ready Set Learn

- presenters only talked to 4 parents. Better signage is needed for next years so the parents are aware that there is another room with information from different presenters. Karen-Ann suggested personal invitations or phone calls to the parents, although that may not be necessary as there was a good turnout at the StrongStart Center. We just have to make sure the parents get all the information when they get there

StrongStart Report

- not available

Recreation programs

- new spring programs are now available, including 3 programs for children 0-6.

Baby Talk

- Karen-Ann reported that there was still no one in OK Falls who would like to start a Baby Talk program.

New Business

ECD Project for 2007. Several unmet needs were discussed, so a decision needs to be made as to which one will plan to meet.

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1. Parenting class for single Dads.
2. Parenting Wisely (from the Boys and Girls Club) – needs a minimum registration of 6 people.

Programs already exist – would providing childcare during the programs get the parents to attend?

ReadNow BC

See Pat's e-mail – article about B.C. government's new program to assist B.C. residents of all ages with improving their reading skills.

Carnival at the OK Falls Elementary School

The Carnival is to be held on Thursday, May 17th from 3 - p.m. CFK has been asked to provide a station for the children to decorate bags in which to collect their goodies, hopefully before the bags are filled. Materials will be provided by the Parks and Recreation staff. Karen-Ann, Mieke and Ruell have volunteered to help man the table.

Additions

Moved by Karen-Ann, seconded by Mieke that CFK spend that latest donation of \$100.00 from the Okanagan Falls Legion to purchase as many board books ("Hug" by Jez Alborough) as possible for the **Next Step** in the Books for Babies program.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the library.

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COMMUNITIES FOR KIDS

MINUTES

Monday, June 11, 2007 at 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

Attending: Ruell Smith, Janet Black, Sandy Walker, Sasha Tauzer, Karen-Ann Atkinson, Pat Buckland

Approval of Minutes: clarification - Magician will be in attendance at the first session (Thursday in July)

Community Facilitator's report: presented

Old Business:

SB6 proposal

- Funds with RDOS; to come to Ok Falls Rec for purchase of equipment

StrongStart Report:

- BC evaluation with 2 people: SS in Ok Falls surpassed SD53 goals.

Library - Ruell:

- 2 special events
- StrongStart families will be coming over twice in July on Thurs ams.
- OkFalls has partnered with Kaleden and Naramata to bring Lulu and the Tomcat (songs and puppets for learning) on July 10; Sandy offering to connect with Janet to drive kids to this event.

Recreation: Janet

- Tumble Bumble – slowed but still 6-9 kids from SS.
- 5-12 year old: lots of 5 year olds registering for Enchanted Adventures running for 6 weeks from 10 –3pm with 6 themes
- No little kids swimming this year- couldn't find an instructor or life guards
- Just for Kids Day: Fri Aug 10 in Kenyon Park
- Aug 11: floats in Ok Falls Days parade – Legion organizing; Cowboy western theme; family dance in park is free.
- Should CFK have an Table and a game; maybe a craft or children's book draw.
- Parents' Night Out: crafts and stations; 5pm to 10pm for \$5 ages 5 and up.

Baby Talk: Karen-Ann indicates she'll help someone who wants to start one up.

Check with Lisa McCall to see if anyone of her moms from Roots of Empathy might like to be involved with a Baby Talk .

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Would Kelly Gagnon be interested in organizing a Toddler Talk?

Idea: the Pen-Mar Cinema in Penticton on the 1st Wed of every Month at 10am has a Reel Babies event – invites strollers and babies for movies that parents normally can't get to in the evenings. Pat to follow up for Oliver Theatre and cost.

Next Step: Karen-Ann and Ruell to establish system of delivering books to children/families.

Carnival:

- Dana provide SS brochures and display board for CFK table
- Mieke organized a table for CFK display, one for making the bags and a small one for the wireless laptop for CFK website launch – no parent accessed – very busy kids
- Draw books supplied by Sandy Walker (thank you for those donations, Sandy) and CFK.
- Bags and art materials provided by Recreation so kids could decorate and fill with goodies

New Business:

Imagine Penticton: Karen-Ann attended – excellent speakers, series of 8 on healthy communities. CFK had a display there.

Additions:

Set of SB6 books: sent to Little Stars child care and Ok Falls Mini School. Assessment of donated books – one was very bland and repetitive.

Directories: Mieke was organizing copies to Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

Recreation's website: on hold

Next Meeting Date: Monday, July 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the library.

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September 10, 2007 Monday at 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

Attending: Ruell Smith, Mieke Smith, Sandy Walker, Sasha Tauzer, Karen-Ann Atkinson, Pat Buckland

Additions: Festivals of Tomato and Grape (Sept30)

Approval of Minutes: Ruell; seconded by Karen-Ann

Community Facilitator's report: presented for June & July/August

Old Business:

SB6 proposal

- Janet's report was emailed to Pat who emailed to everyone; included were 2 photos of participants in Tumble Bumble
- Summer Rec program well attended especially by younger children ages 5-6

StrongStart Report:

- New coordinator: Samantha James

Library - Ruell:

Junior program had children as young as 4. Program conflicted with Summer Rec program. Lots of fun and prizes for children involved included Sam the Magic Man

- **Story hour** for fall – Ruell will do a poster and email to Pat to email to CFK list plus put on website:
Sept 26 to Dec 12/Wednesdays from 1-2pm: for ages 3-5
- Ruell will be going to the Strong Start center on Sept 11 and again later in September
- Toddler Time Story hour: Ruell is not sure if there are hours available for this year.

Baby Talk:

Pat asked Lisa McCall to see if anyone of her moms from Roots of Empathy might like to be involved with a Baby Talk: Lisa to get back to Pat
Would Kelly Gagnon be interested in organizing a Toddler Talk?

Next Step: Books for 6, 12 and 18 month babies available – Ruell has idea to put an ad in the paper reminding parents of the books. Karen-Ann will check to see if she can contact parents about 1 month after they've received their B4BCB to remind them.

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* Note: Valerie Magee from RC Legion will be moving to Saskatchewan. Pat will send a thank-you card to her for her support for children 0-6.

OK Falls Days Aug 11: display table didn't connect with a lot of local families. Finger painting on huge sheets on the ground. Draws for books. Ruell, Sandy and Pat manned the Table from 2 – 4pm.

New Business:

Women's Institute Bazaar: Nov 17/07

- Ruell will be setting up a display table
- CFK: should we set up a table? Playdough and raffle

Awareness of CFK: Dana will still do article with pictures every second month/perhaps we could send to Western and Herald? Check re school newsletters.

- website and directory updates

List of fall programs that could be listed on the website:

Parenting Wisely – Sasha will contact Pat when or if the program will run.

Family Movie Night at Ok Falls church: Mieke will send info to Pat

BC Chamber discussion re: child care

Additions:

Festival of Tomato: Kids section open from 12 to 6pm, Mieke volunteered from Ok Falls Table. Tons of little kids; very successful age-appropriate crafts.

Festival of Tomato: Sept 30 in Oliver; from 12 to 6 – if anyone is interested in putting in a 2 hour shift to help in the children's section please call Pat. Sasha will be there for the Boys & Girls Club.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, Oct 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the library.

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COMMUNITIES FOR KIDS

MINUTES

October 1, 2007 Monday at 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

- Attending:** Ruell Smith, Mieke Smith, Sandy Walker, Sasha Tauzer, Sam James, Pat Buckland
- Additions:** EDI teleconference - Mieke
- Approval of Minutes:** amended Festival to Grape not Tomato 2nd note under additions; passed by Mieke, seconded by Sasha
- Community Facilitator's report:** presented for Sept

Old Business:

SB6 proposal & Recreation

- Sam showed us a photo of new piece of equipment (3 person tricycle) viewed – it will go on website; Mieke passed along the “Consent to use photographs” signed by 2 parents.

Library - Ruell:

- **Story hour** has started – poster to put on website coming: mostly 5 year olds attending
- **Toddler Time Story hour:** will start mid October.
- Ruell recently attended a workshop on puppetry so puppets will be a part of the story hours.

Movie night at the Ok Falls church: Mieke will send Pat the brochure re this month's movie to go on website

100 Fun Things to do in Ok Falls: Table suggest Pat contact Janet to see if her student leaders would like to do a brochure “100 Fun Things in Ok Falls”. Sasha thinks she'd like to suggest for a student project. Pat to sent sample of Cranbrook's pamphlet to Sasha.

Baby Talk:

Pat talked to Kelly Gagnon about organizing a Baby Talk – suggestion that it might be a good one for StrongStart. Sam indicates it would be difficult because there's often more than one child per adult and SS cannot provide child minding for a parent to participate in a Baby Talk Session.

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StrongStart: Sam

11 new families since Sept; mostly boys around 15 months. Mary Kiviste of SO Community Literacy Program is the guest speaker tomorrow. Children go the Tumble Bumble as well as StrongStart. Sam will send an updated SS brochure for the website. Kindercare now being offered at the school: daycare for children in Kindergarten from 11:am to 2:30pm

New Business:

Women's Institute Bazaar: Nov 17/07

- Ruell will be setting up a display table – she's asked WI for 2 tables (one for library, one for CFK) plus a small table to set playdough up. Pat will make playdough; Sandy can supply "tools". CFK will provide recipe to hand out to parents, too. Ruell will have books for a draw. Sandy to volunteer; Mieke if she's in SO.

Awareness of CFK: Dana planning to do article – picture and short writeup relating to ECD.

Website and directory updates:

- **Parenting Wisely** – Sasha indicates meeting tonight to establish if PW session is a go in Ok Falls; will send info if it is.
- **Movie night** at the Ok Falls church: Mieke will send Pat the brochure re this month's movie to go on website
- Mieke and Pat to meet to update directory

Literacy Now: 8 in attendance at Ok Falls forum on Thurs at 7pm; variety of people with good ideas; Danielle Robinson, the Literacy Now coordinator, is hoping to do some outreach in Ok Falls and will have a community plan by January.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, Nov 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the library.

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“promoting optimum health and development of children from pre-conception to six years of age”

MINUTES

November 15, 2007 Thursday at 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

Attending: Ruell Smith, Janet Black, Mieke Smith, Sasha Tauzer, Sam James, Sam Hancheroff, Bonnie Kandubki, Christina Doherty, Pat Buckland

Introductions: Patricia Gregory of Understanding the Early Years

Presentation by Patricia on the results of information gathered on the developmental readiness of children in Kindergarten in Ok Falls.

See attached for presentation details on the 5 domains of the Early Development Instrument from HELP

Discussion followed on the “Community Factors Impacting the EDI Domains”

1. Physical Health and Well-Being

- Access to safe, outdoor play spaces – discussion on lack of playground facilities for preschool affected by school restrictions.
- Access to recreation programs and services – convenience of having the community recreation facilities in the school were appreciated.
- Food security – a concern was mentioned by both Bonnie and Sam on the quality of snacks that children were bringing to StrongStart and after-school/preschool programs. Handouts for parents outlining healthy food habits would be appreciated.

2. Social Competence

- Access to quality child care and preschool – awareness of the lack of childcare even with the existing 2 registered. Discussion on the value of the preschool being in the elementary school.
- Access to structured community programs – discussion with regard to recreation, library, preschool, StrongStart being so appreciated by community
- Parent education programs – PAC’s request to Boys & Girls Clubs has resulted in the Parenting With Purpose to run in Ok Falls
- Neighbourhood cohesion – more evident now that so many of the children’s programs are in the one centre location

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- Localized access to services – mention of having most 0-6 programming in the community school

3. Emotional Maturity

- Access to diverse environments – small town, many parents within walking distance
- Access to quality child care and preschool – excellent preschool facilities; again mention of lack of child care; lots of local children go into Penticton child care services
- Informal opportunities to interact with peers – at 0-6 programs, preschool and SS pass through school and connect with other students, too.

4. Language and Cognitive Development

- Literacy programs that include both young children and adults – at StrongStart encouraging parents re literacy; library
- Accessible library services – public library, school library; excellent programs at the public library – concern that parents weren't taking advantage of the public library programs as much as they could
- Partnerships between early child development programs and the local school district – StrongStart and preschools, before and after school programs; public health has an office at the school

5. Communication Skills and General Knowledge

- Proportion of the population that speaks English as a second language – small number but one Spanish speaking family
- Access to rich oral language environments

Table has decided not to meet in December.

Next Meeting: Monday January 14/08

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