



Understanding  
the Early Years

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

## MINUTES

January 14, 2008 Monday at 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

Attending: Ruell Smith, Sasha Tauzer, Sandy Walker, Pat Buckland

Regrets: Janet Black, Karen-Ann Atkinson, Mieke Smith

Approval of Minutes: amended to include concern over lunch program at Ok Falls Elementary re quality

Agenda additions: Parenting Wisely, B&G Club report

Community Facilitator report read.

### Old Business &

### Membership reports:

Library: Ruell:

Story hour begins February 6

Family Literacy

- Tour: Vicky White (Oliver) and Katheryn Foly (Kelowna) are doing a session on January 25 at 10am; puppets, stories etc with a focus on Grades 1-3.
- Library event: Literacy draws and colouring poster Jan 26

Recreation: Janet via email

Tumble Bumble well attended with 8-18 kids average

Taekwondo has 7 4-5 year olds

Fitness class for parents: great response to child minding opportunities for family recreation

Elementary School's Breakfast Program is seeking volunteers for Tues &

Thurs am from 7:15 to 8:30 to greet and serve – parents could bring a child with them and have breakfast there.

Strong Start: no report- Ruell is going to SS once a month re reading/books; request for Oliver Strong Start brochures from Sasha – Pat will provide and include the Punjabi translation one; to check on Family Centre one for Osoyoos

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## Boys & Girls Club: Sasha

Good attendance at the Parenting Wisely Course sponsored by PAC: 10 started, 6 finished/ hope to offer the teen one in Oliver and Osoyoos

Website launched with links to all communities – links on CFK and vv Jumpstart Funding – Sasha will send info to Pat : Public can access funds through B&G.

B&G now at full staff complement

Women's Institute Bazaar: Sandy and Pat manned a table with playdough and CFK display, Ruell with library display beside us – Ruell had lots of enquiries, next year we need to ensure we have a round table and chairs for children & playdough

Literacy Now: final draft report in to committee at 72 pages

## New Business:

### CFK awareness:

- Dana's article appeared in Okanagan Sun re play & playdough; Dr. Chivers' article on "lazy eye" will be the next one; she's also given permission for CFK to use it on the website.
- Distribution of brochures: Dr. Robertson's? Ogoogo Dental Services? Community Policing office? Firehall?
- Distribution of posters?
- CFK on Ok Falls Recreation website/RDOS website links? Also try for link on new South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce website – Pat to call Rhoda Brooks
- CFK Bulletin Board at Ok Falls Elementary – Pat to ask Mieke if she could check on maybe having Sam keep it updated.
- Pat to connect with Mieke re updating the CFK directory

Places to go: worthwhile to consider comments based on November EDI list of "Community Factors" – discussion with more members present next meeting

## Additions:

### Christmas letter:

Sandy indicated she was impressed with the Christmas letter that went out to the Table members from CFK.

Next Meeting: Monday February 11/08

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## MINUTES

February 11, 2008 Monday at 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

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

Regrets: Janet Black, Mieke Smith

Approval of Minutes: Sandy Walker approved

Agenda additions:

- BC Early Development/Learning – Erin Shields (Osoyoos) on provincial group; follow-up when Erin has more info
- Update directory
- Rock Creek Parent Conference

Community Facilitator report read.

### Old Business &

#### Membership reports:

Boys & Girls Club: Sasha

- Parenting Wisely Course: hoping to offer in Oliver and Osoyoos
- Jumpstart Funding – recreation funding program for 4 – 16 years & needy families
- 3 new staff taking some of the pressure off

Library: Ruell:

- Preschool Story hour has started with 5 children and growing
- Toddler Time starts next month
- Great success with Family Literacy Day Jan26 - with 70 children from K to Gr 4
- The book draw on Jan 27 produced 7 winners who each go to choose a book for an adult and a book for a child.

Public Health: Karen-Ann will attend CFK meetings for 2008/2009 in Sept, Jan, Mar and Apr.

Recreation: Janet - tabled

Strong Start: Sam

- 27 kids averaged over Christmas
- 62 children in January included 2 families from Penticton; 10 from Kaleden
- 40 children are registered
- Speakers coming to SS will be Booster Seat, SLP, etc.
- Parents in the SS group got together to help a needy mom.
- Pat to forward consent form to Sam for a great reading picture for website

New Business:

CFK awareness:

- Posters going to spaces discussed at last meeting.
- Decision to have SS and preschool use CFK info on their bulletin boards rather than maintaining another/3rd board at the school. Table members felt those 2 boards would be enough.
- Brochures distributed to various places in Ok Falls.

Additions:

Rock Creek parent conference: people had trouble opening the attachment, Pat to resend.

Directory – Pat would like each person to take a portion of the Ok Falls directory and update: Sasha will do p.1; Sam, p.2; Ruell, p.3 and Sandy, p.4.

Parent Conference for CFK: note that it's happening in Keremeos on Oct 25/08.

Next Meeting: Monday March 10/08



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## MINUTES

March 10, 2008 Monday at 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

Attending: Ruell Smith, Sasha Tauzer, Sandy Walker, Pat Buckland  
Regrets: Janet Black, Sam James

Approval of Minutes: approved

Community Facilitator report - read.

### Old Business & Membership reports:

Boys & Girls Club: Sasha

- Jumpstart Funding – recreation funding program for 4 – 16 years & needy families – see attached funding guideline information
  - Canadian Tire sends out to card holder members for donation
  - \$100 provides a year longer program for kids
  - Osoyoos is using to develop programs for gaps, i.e. 11 & 12 year olds

Library: Ruell:

- Preschool Story hour – 10 to 12 children at 10am on Thursdays
- Toddler Time – one baby
- Easter Egg colouring contest on Mar21 which included an Easter Egg hunt at the library

Public Health: Karen-Ann - tabled

Recreation: Janet - tabled

Strong Start: Sam - notes

“It has been quiet at SS this month, as a lot of people have flu or are away. We had an exciting visit from the fire engine which was well attended. BCESIS (the recording system by the Ministry) is still plodding on and has to be complete by April 1.

I attended a SS conference in Vancouver last week for a few days about literacy and aboriginal history which was interesting. Left me with lots of ideas.” Sam

- See attached schedule for SS/Ready Set Learn visitors from Oct/07 to Jun/08

## New Business:

### CFK awareness:

- Posters going to spaces discussed at last meeting.
- Directory – Table assessed directory – updated, added and deleted for all relevant contact info. Pat to produce directory and solicit funds to produce.

Next Meeting: Monday April 14/08

Appendix 1:



## **CANADIAN TIRE JUMP START**

Revised February 2008

### **MANDATE**

To provide financially disadvantaged children in Canada with the opportunity to participate in sports & recreational activities.

### **FUNDING GUIDELINES - South Okanagan**

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- Ages 4-18 years.
  - Funding preference is to pay for registration fees with consideration to fund equipment or transportation costs on a case by case basis.
  - The program is designed to get children active. Any sport or recreation program should include physical activity.
- Funding goes to individuals not teams.
  - Funding priority is for a sustained program that lasts a season (i.e. a one-week elite sports camp would not qualify).
- Open to children and youth throughout the entire South Okanagan.
- Priority given for entry level programs and first time participants..
  - ' - one activity per allocation period.  
Maximum subsidy is not guaranteed and depends on remaining available funds per allocation period.  
Allocation periods: Winter-Spring begins January 15<sup>th</sup> and Summer-Fall begins July 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

Application submissions are on-going. Application review / approval may take up to 2 weeks and will be confirmed with a phone call or meeting.

For more information contact:

Area Director, Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs, South  
250-493-0512

Appendix 2:

Strongstart visitors — Ready, Set, Learn.

Topic	Contact	Date	Parents	Children	Collaboration
Library	Ruell Smith	16 October /6>?-	8	11	
Library	Ruell Smith	5 November	8	19	Preschool
Health Nurse	Karen-ann Atkinson	9 November	7	12	
Optician	Dr Michelle Chivers	20 November	12	22	Preschool Kindergarten
Library	Ruell Smith	3 December	8	4	Preschool
Library	Ruell Smith	14 January / O\$	6	13	Preschool
Dentist	Carl Gunderson ,	23 January	Ss9 Ps 6 K	15 6 17	
Health Nurse	Karen-ann Atkinson	25 January	12	21	
Library	Ruell Smith	4 February	7	13	Preschool
BCAA	Laura Mielke	20 February	Ss5 Ps1 K1	7 10 16	
Speech and language	Hester Brunner	28 February	4	8	
Fire Engine	Ok falls fire department	29 February	Ss1O K2	17 17	
Library	Ruell Smith	10 March			Preschool
Health nurse	Karen-ann Atkinson	14 March			
Ccrr	Marisa Munday	2 April			
Library	Ruell Smith	7 April			Preschool

Osns	Alison Johnstone	18 April			
Library	Ruell Smith	5 May			Preschool
Nutrition	Kristi Estergaard	16 May			
Health Nurse	Karen-ann Atkinson	23 May			
Communities for kids	Pat Buckland	19 June			





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## MINUTES

April 14, 2008 Monday at 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

Attending: Ruell Smith, Sasha Tauzer, Sandy Walker, Mieka Smith, Sam James, Pat Buckland

Regrets: Janet Black

Guest: Blair Lischeron, Coordinator for CFK/SB6

Evaluation for CFK, SB6 (Success by 6) and CAPC (Community Action Plan for Children): Blair

- The evaluation is done for BC; Steering Committee members, Community Facilitators and Stakeholders are asked to complete the on-line evaluation of CFK by May 31. The evaluation is voluntary. Each Table has its own code for completing on line.
- Blair went through a hard copy of the evaluation for discussion; he indicated that he or Pat would be available if anyone had any concerns or questions when they were filling in the on line form.
- It was suggested that all community people on the CFK email list for Ok Falls be afforded the opportunity to complete the evaluation.
- The evaluation gives everyone an opportunity to reflect on the positive things that have been happening around capacity building relating to children ages 0-6. It also will give the Table the opportunity to learn what others in the province are doing and glean ideas we might like to implement.
- **Action:** Pat to send the OkFalls table code and access info .

Approval of Minutes: approved

Community Facilitator report - read.

### Old Business & Membership reports:

Boys & Girls Club: Sasha

- Currently offering a Parenting Wisely facilitator training – one person from the S.O. is taking the training
- Mieke expressed an interest in hearing about the next training opportunity
- B & G is collecting names of parents of children ages 4-10 who would be interested in attending a P.W. session. B&G will hold the P.W. sessions in whichever community provides the most parents.
- Everyone's notice Canadian Tire donation jars in Canadian Tire for the Jumpstart Program – Janet uses this opportunity for Ok Falls

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Library: Ruell:

- Toddler Time – there's a need to retain this program; Ruell changed the time of the program after the first 4 weren't attended as well as hoped; 4 more sessions to go
- Hoping to do more outreach ex. to StrongStart; Ruell goes to SS once per month and "sells" the library services; parents and babies need to check out books!
- April 30: plans for the Teddy Bear picnic; Ruell to send poster re picnic for inclusion on website

Public Health: Karen-Ann - tabled

Recreation: Janet - Emailed report from Recreation

Flyers are at the library for reference. Registration on all Spring programs are good. Little League is a new program for 5-7 years. It is full at 15. Little Dragons taekwondo also has 10 3-6 yrs old. Wowo, we had 30 pre-schoolers at Tumble Bumble last friday. Crazy! We would like to purchase a second 2 seater taxi for the fall. Kids are always lining up to ride that one.

Strong Start: Sam

- New literacy program at the school – Sam, Bonnie K and Sherry, the K teacher are the Team: one week's session will be sounds; one, reading and one, writing.
- SS has 22 2 year olds – coming Fridays from 11:15 to 12.
- SS is doing its second annual evaluation – 80 parents to be surveyed

Directory: Pat to edit old directory; there is \$25 left from Weyerhaeuser's donation to provide funds for printing 100. Mieke's offered to set up the new one.

Awareness of CFK:

- Parade entry – Pat explained possible entry format – vehicle with 2 CFK banners down the sides; children in vehicle with new CFK t-shirts on (they get to keep them)  
- other ideas - possibly children on bikes; have some children carry the banner

CFK awareness:

- Posters going to spaces discussed at last meeting.
- Directory – Table assessed directory – updated, added and deleted for all relevant contact info. Pat to produce directory and solicit funds to produce.

New Business:

Certificates of Appreciation: available for presentation to Ok Falls groups who've been so supportive of CFK efforts; Walmart has donated the frames, the SD prints them up  
- Table suggests Certificates go to Val & the Royal Canadian Legion, Janet & Recreation, StrongStart, OK Falls Public library

Healthy Harvest: Mieke gave an account of the Healthy Harvest box that was available to Ok Falls community members until funds ran out a couple of years ago. Pat will send out information re the "new" Healthy Harvest box initiative when it arrives. Mieke will approach the volunteers who'd been involved with the earlier and very successful initiative to see if they might like to be involved again.

Next Meeting: Monday May 12 /08

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## MINUTES

May 12, 2008 Monday at 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

**Attending:** Ruell Smith, Sandy Walker, Mieka Smith, Sam James, Karen-Ann Atkinson

**Regrets:** Sasha Tauzer, Pat Buckland

**Approval of April 14/08 Minutes:** Minutes approved by Karen-Ann Atkinson

**Community Facilitator report** - unavailable.

### Old Business:

Library: Ruell:

- May have to cancel Toddler Time next year because of the poor attendance of parents and children of this age
- Summer Reading Club will start in July with ages six and under attending on Wednesdays from 6:00 pm – 7:30 p.m. and ages six and over on Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. This year's theme is revolving around B.C.'s 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Ruell has had some mothers come in to get their Books for Babies books including one “12month one”. She thinks that sometimes new moms don't look in the bags and see the coupons.

Baby Talk: Karen-Ann

- Baby Talk is going strong. Karen-Ann is still making visits to the StrongStart Centre. She will share her list of relevant topics such as Baby Yoga, etc. with Sam.

Strong Start: Sam

- Evaluation will be done in April by Ministry of Education
- Parents have completed a survey
- Average of 14 children/day
- Next guest speaker will be a dietician

Recreation: Janet - No report

Certificates of Appreciation: Pat

- Pat sent an email apologizing for not having the certificates ready due to an error in the wording.

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**New Business:**

Directory: Members present agreed to talk to Pat about postponing the new directory to the fall because that is a time when changes in administration of programs and organizations sometimes occur.

Okanagan Falls Afterschool Daycare: Daycare will be operating in the summer for children aged 5yrs – 11 yrs starting on July 7 and running until August 22. Pam Keist and Sam James will be running the program at the Elementary School with a maximum number of 10 children.

Spring Carnival: Okanagan Falls Elementary will be holding a Spring Carnival on Tuesday June 17 from 4pm to pm. Ruell offered to help set up a table and have a draw for books. Sam will contact the organizer Faye Arcand about whether or not CFK will be hosting the “goodie bag” decorating table

**Next Meeting:** Monday June 9 /08 at 7pm at the Okanagan Falls library

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## MINUTES

June 9, 2008 Monday at 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

**Attending:** Ruell Smith, Sandy Walker, Sam James, Karen-Ann Atkinson, Sasha Tauzer, Sam Hancheroff, Pat Buckland

**Introductions:** Emily McCarthy, Angela Schwanzenberger, Tania Sharman – Ok Falls parents

**Approval of May08 Minutes:** Amendments – evaluation of StrongStart was in May not April; time of summer reading program for 6 and under is from 6:30-7:30 not 6.

**Community Facilitator report** - noted.

**Additions:** ECD evaluation on-line by end of May

### **Old Business:**

Member updates

**Library:** Ruell:

- Doing school visits to promote Summer Reading Program – will send out invitations to StrongStart. Has already visited Kindergarten and will probably visit again before school is out. The kindergarten class visited the library already and will make another visit before school ends.
- Need to come up with ideas on how to get their Next Step books out to families – will do via Ruell's visit to StrongStart, Karen-Ann's visits to home of new babies, Pat to include in presentation to StrongStart on Jun20, word of mouth and Sasha would put up a poster in the Boys&Girls Clubs if there was one.
- Moms attending this meeting didn't receive the Books for BC Babies bags.

**Public Health:** Karen-Ann

- Need for Toddler Time (TT) to be set up in Ok Falls. Success by 6 has new funding available to set up such a program. Sam Hancheroff will look into space for TT. Attending parents very interested in a TT for the Fall. They will discuss with other parents to get a sense of topics, speakers and times to possibly apply for funding.

**Boys & Girls Clubs:** Sasha

- Parenting Wisely courses did not happen in the spring because of low enrolment. The classes will be offered again in the fall at a location where there is the most interest i.e. Oliver, Osoyoos or Ok Falls

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- Leo Beelen is new director of Boys & Girls Clubs in SO so new replacement for Oliver office is open; 13-18yr youth program will run this summer in Ok Falls – looking for a youth outreach worker for that.

**Strong Start: Sam**

- 22 2year olds registered with SS
- fluctuation in attendance due to weather
- Ministry assessment – impressed with the way everyone works together
- Teddy Bear Picnic at year end at the beach – bike to be raffled
- Hoping that SS will benefit from the new Fruit and Vegetable program starting in the fall at the elementary school
- SS and preschool will fund the Bouncy Castle at the Spring Carnival on June 17 from 3-7pm for an early childhood area.
- Attending parents asked if there could be 2 separate sessions of SS – one for the younger ages and one for older - Sam indicated most of those attending were the really young and so not possible to have an older separate one with enough families participating. Always the issue of number of funded hours to staff. Discussion on whether SS for 18 month to 3yr olds could be offered at night, on Saturdays during the week.
- Suggestions for other programs from parents: music and movement programs, cooking, art, science, You Make The Difference sessions for toddlers. Mothers Day Off like the Summerland one. Suggestions that moms need to approach Janet at Recreation keeping in mind that for 2 year olds there's one child care worker for maximum 6 children. Pat to forward Telus funding info for science program to Tania.
- Sam wondering if a First Aid course could be organized for the SS parents.

**Recreation: Janet - by email**

“The Flyers are at the library for reference. Registration on all Spring programs are good. Little League is a new program for 5-7 years. It is full at 15. Little Dragons taekwondo also has 10 3-6 yrs old. Wowo, we had 30 pre-schoolers at Tumble Bumble last Friday. Crazy! We would like to purchase a second 2 seater taxi for the fall. Kids are always lining up to ride that one”.

**Directory: Pat handed out copies of new directory. Some changes made. (Pat will put on CFK website in meantime in case anyone wants to download a hard copy).**

- Note that Dana's name is still listed as SS contact on Ok Falls webpage – Pat to organize edit

**Spring Carnival: Tuesday June 17 from 3pm to 7 pm.**

- CFK table beside SS: Ruell ok to man from 3-5; Karen-Ann to check schedule; Pat
- Planners will provide materials and CFK will have a table for the goodie bags that children will decorate
- There will also be a silent auction, “garage sale” table and cake raffle.

**New Business:**

**Awareness:** new “Milton” poster – 4 sets to be distributed in Ok Falls

**Certificates of Appreciation: Pat**

Certificates distributed to school, library, SS, Royal Canadian Legion & Recreation

**ECD online Evaluation:** concern about needing to mix the format; easier to understand.

**Next Meeting:** Monday Sept 08 /08 at 7pm at the Okanagan Falls library

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## MINUTES

September 8, 2008 Monday at 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

**Attending:** Ruell Smith, Sandy Walker, Sam James, Karen-Ann Atkinson, Lindsay Clements, Janet Black, Mieke Smith, Christina Doherty, Caroline Pennelli, Pat Buckland

**Introductions:** Lindsay replacing Sasha for B&G Clubs, Caroline as Literacy Now Coordinator in the SO.

**Approval of June 08 Minutes:** noted

**Community Facilitator report** - noted.

### Old Business:

Member updates

**Library:** Ruell:

- Summer Reading Program – smaller group this year but fun/draws for all the children
- Preschool program starts Sep for 3-5 yrs on Wed from 1-2pm
- Ruell will be retiring the end of January 09
- Next Step books not being picked up – design a larger coupon for handing out

**Boys & Girls Clubs:** Lindsay

- Parenting Wisely - in the fall at a location where there is the most interest i.e. Oliver, Osoyoos or Ok Falls for parents of children ages 5 and up
- Lots of changes – new director in Oliver is Jennifer Anderson; Leo Beelen is now S.O. director
- Referrals are changing from only MCFD to self-referral
- Integrated Family Development:: Child & Parent Support, Intensive Family Preservation re: child protection concerns; Sexual Abuse Intervention
- Looking for contact info for StrongStarts

**Action:** Pat to send latest CFK newsletter which lists SS addresses etc.

**Public Health:** Karen-Ann

- Noted Next Step books distribution – discussed above.

**Recreation:** Janet

- Tumble Bumble on twice a week in the summer
- Lots of 4 year olds at summer camps

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- Drumming circle: 108 hot dogs sold so good turnout; 50 drums made out of Tickleberries ice cream pails, intergenerational
- Fall programs: Soccer for 5+, Tkwando, HIP HOP dancing, Ladies Cardio will included child minding, craft for 3 yrs + and mom can work out
- Difficulties sometimes for children who are too young and haven't been left without a parent
- Parents night out being offered again – ages 4+ with games and crafts on last Friday of the month for \$10
- Jake the HIP HOP dances is begin funded by the Legion to be like the pied piper at the Ok Falls Days

**Strong Start: Sam**

- End of year picnic – lots of people not recognized
- 39 children registered in the first 4 days of start up; 70 now registered
- Gap for children ages 2 & 3
- Time for guest speakers is usually limited to the snack time of 10 minutes only – parents and children busy with each other
- May try 3 times on a Saturday during the year

**Directory:** incomplete – Pat to forward edited format

**New Business:**

**Success By 6:**

**1. funding:** discussed fencing for playground – needed for entire north side of school & all ages.

**Action:** Pat to check with Team re eligibility

**2. Evaluation:** Blair Lischeron would like to discuss the evaluation with the Table – ok for the November Table meeting.

**Confirm meeting times:** Table will continue to meet the second Monday of each month; October's date falls at Thanksgiving so we'll meet Oct 6.

**Parade Float** for Ok Falls Days: Sept 20

Banners and placards available for parade; Sam to ask parents about participating with children; bike decorators from Friday night event; ducky pond for the kids

**Asset Mapping:** Patricia Gregory of UEY to present information about the early development of young children in OK Falls, and the relationships between community resources, economic and social characteristics, and children's readiness to learn at school at Oct meeting.

**Additions:**

**Literacy Now:** Caroline

- schedule is available listing all literacy programs for 0-6 in Ok Falls, Oliver and Osoyoos, in collaboration with community service providers, updating is on-going
- Two newsletters have been prepared, outlining some of the literacy activities available in the region, and providing links to resources and materials that may support service providers across the community. Copies of the newsletter are available from [literacynowsos@gmail.com](mailto:literacynowsos@gmail.com) This is a regional resource, so ideas

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for articles, information and networking are welcomed for inclusion in future issues. Please contact Caroline at the above gmail address.

- Literacy Now rack cards are available for service providers and community members. These outline the Legacies Now initiatives, and highlight the range of literacy issues that might affect or be of interest to people in our region. Cards distributed.

**Preschool:** Bonnie (forwarded through Sam James)

- 26 enrolled; 4 spaces left; mornings – M,W,F for 4 yr olds; Tues, Thurs for 3 yr olds
- 9 Kindergarteners at the school and before & afterschool for K there are 0 enrolled.
- 110 children enrolled in OK Falls Elementary

Next Meeting: **Oct 6** at 7pm at Ok Falls library

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## MINUTES

October 6, 2008 Monday at 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

**Attending:** Ruell Smith, Sam James, Sam Hancheroff, Mieke Smith, Christina Doherty, Pat Buckland

**Introductions:** Patricia Gregory, guest speaker for UEY to present information about the early development of young children in OK Falls, and the relationships between community resources, economic and social characteristics, and children’s readiness to learn at school - see attached.

- UEY’s new video will be available soon – the Table will receive one.
- The federal government department overseeing UEY, Human Resources Development Canada, will be visiting on Friday Oct 10 to evaluate CFK and will visit the Ok Falls Elementary school at 9:30 am.
- Noted SO Transit System information in directory

**Action:** need for more child care ; how can Table use SB6 funds to help improve Ok Falls for 0-6 considering the results of the EDI in Patricia’s report?

**Approval of Sept 08 Minutes:** noted

**Community Facilitator report** - noted.

### Old Business:

Member updates

**Library:** Ruell:

- Storyhour – 5 children
- Next Step books – using StrongStart to publicize NS books – suggestion to design an invitation to wrap around the NS books so parents remember to come and pick up freebies

**Boys & Girls Clubs:** Lindsay – tabled

**Public Health:** Karen-Ann - tabled

**Recreation:** Janet - emailed

- We applied for a small grant to host a little special event for 2-6 year olds. With a grant from BCRPA we are planning a "Bounce and Bike" in February where we will rent the

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bouncy castles and have the tumble bumble bikes out around the track for a morning of play. This is in cooperation with BC Spirit Week in February. Cross your fingers.

- Hip Hop has 6 kids under the age of 6 so that program is a 'go' for that age group. 32 kids registered in total! We can still take late registration for anyone still keen on coming.
- Thank you to Pat for coming out to OK Falls Day and for walking in the bike parade. We were thrilled with the turn-out.
- Angela (who comes to StrongStart) tells me she is still keen to lead a structured movement, crafts, etc program for toddlers via Parks and Rec this winter. We hope to work together on that and have some new programs up in December. She has some great ideas.

#### **Strong Start: Sam**

- Averaging 20 children per day/ busiest day had 30 – most from Ok Falls
- Hester Brunner from Speech/Language and Karen-Anne are recommending barriered families come to SS – escort them to the program
- Karen-Ann's coming in every other month as a resource person
- Have done a mass photo – a feat!
- Dress up time for Hallowe'en plus a raffle
- Scholastic books have been provided

#### **OK Falls Days report: Pat**

- Sept 20 Sam, Alice and Kate help out with the parade banner and placards walking behind the beautifully decorated bikes. They also helped with the "ducky dip" – attended by lots of children.

**Directory:** Pat tabled

**Awareness ideas:** tabled

#### **New Business:**

##### **Success By 6:**

1. **funding:** noted \$200 available per table  
**Action:** Pat to send formal letter out to Table members
2. **Evaluation:** Blair Lischeron would like to discuss the evaluation with the Table – ok for the November Table meeting - yes.

**CFK Evaluation on Oct 8:** Table members asked to participate – mileage and lunch provided. Phone interviews an option if members cannot attend.

**First Aid course for SS parents:** Sam to discuss with Janet when she returns

#### **Additions:**

**Literacy Now:** Caroline Pennelli had distributed excellent LEAP & HOP resource books for Communities – samples shown

**Action:** Sam J and Christine would like copies; Pat to notify Caroline

**Women's Institute** event Nov 22: CFK, SS and library to have craft and displays – "ducky dip"?

**SO Community Literacy Program:** Mary Kiviste is needing literacy students – any parents who'd like to improve their literacy skills can access one-on-one tutors.

Next Meeting: **NOV 3** at 7pm at Ok Falls library

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Attachment:

**UEY presentation:** Patricia Gregory  
October 6, 2008

Stats Canada information:

- **185 children ages 0-6 in Ok Falls neighbourhood, which includes Apex, Marron Valley and Twin Lakes** but excludes Kaleden and Skaha Estates. (Sam H. indicated 80 children registered with StrongStart ie. Parents coming from different communities depending on the programs)
- regionally 0-6 are 6.4% of the total population
- average individual income for Ok Falls area is \$25,024
- these are 2001 stats; Nov 08 for new ones

Social Risk Index (SRI) – 9 census variables

- 5 of the 9 in Ok Falls are better than the Canadian average
  1. Low income (under the Low Income Cut-off) – income affects child development – 13.4% in Ok Falls vs National Average (NA) of 16%
  2. Lone parent family – this usually impacts because of lower income, stress due to marital break-ups, difficulties getting community support – 13.7% in Ok Falls vs NA of 15.7%
  3. Home Ownership – private dwelling – 81.5% in Ok Falls vs NA of 65.8%
  4. Recent Immigration – different culture requires adjustment – 0.0% in Ok Falls vs NA of 3.3%
  5. Linguistic Isolation – no French or English in the home – 0.0% in Ok Falls vs NA of 1.5%
- 4 of the 9 in Ok Falls are worse than the Canadian average
  1. No High School graduation – affects family income – fewer words/ not as rich a vocabulary, more directive 35.2% in Ok Falls vs NA of 29.9%
  2. Residential mobility – highest rate of mobility in our region – 18.1% in Ok Falls vs NA of 14.3%
  3. Full Time/Full Year Employment – 49 weeks of a year worked full-time/none of our CFK communities met the Canadian average – 24.5% in Ok Falls vs NA of 37.1%
  4. Average Government transfers – child tax, social assistance, old age pension etc – related to seasonal/tourism – 28.1% in Ok Falls vs NA of 16.8%

Community Resources:

- child care: 4
- Education: 4 facilities plus programs
- Cultural: 4 churches + museum
- Recreation: 13 facilities includes playgrounds, hiking, beaches, etc
- Health & wellness: firehall, medical, dental, etc.
- Others

Early Development Instrument (EDI): Use of 2004/5 and 2005/6 data – use of 2 year data because of low numbers of children in each community (40 children sample)

- Physical Health & Well Being: 15% of children vulnerable - scored 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest quintile relating to BC data
- Social Competence: 15% vulnerable – lowest quintile
- Emotional Maturity: 15.8% vulnerable – lowest quintile
- Language & Cognitive Skills: 17.5% vulnerable – lowest quintile

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- Communication skills & General Knowledge – 12.5% vulnerable – 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest quintile

Neighbourhood vulnerability: 22.5% are vulnerable which is the second best number of children vulnerable provincially– means less than 1 of 4 children in OK Falls are vulnerable. The fact that OK Falls is a “bedroom community” may affect the data.

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Understanding  
the Early Years

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

### MINUTES

November 3, 2008 Monday at 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

**Attending:** Ruell Smith, Sam James, Sandy Walker, Lindsay Clements, Pat Buckland

**Introductions:** Blair Lischeron, SB6 and CFK, discussed the SB6/CF evaluation that we did in May via internet – provincial and local perspectives (attached report)

- evaluation is to provide BC government with successes
- not mandated for CFK this year but will be next year; Children First will be
- Gives Tables planning opportunity ex. Planning for awareness – goal is to plan a number of displays per year, plan to solicit new Table members, organizing a calendar for the newspaper, etc.

**Approval of Oct Minutes:** noted

**Community Facilitator report** - noted.

**Old Business:**

Member updates

**Library:** Ruell:

- Storyhour – 7 children

**Boys & Girls Clubs:** Lindsay –

- Parenting Wisely will be offered starting Nov 12 at Tuc El Nuit School in Oliver; open to Ok Falls parents; 6—8 pm; free, \$15 for text

Action: Pat to resend poster to Tables

**Public Health:** Karen-Ann - tabled

**Recreation:** Janet - tabled

**Strong Start:** Sam

- Lots of illness; Sam to send SS schedule to Pat for website

**Women’s Institute** - Nov 22: CFK, SS and library to have directories, craft and displays – playdough

**New Business:** see SB6 above

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**Additions:**

**Planning on Dec 8:** combine with 5<sup>th</sup> year CFK celebration and Christmas.

Next Meeting: Dec 8 at 7pm at Ok Falls library

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

### MINUTES

December 8, 2008 Monday at 7 p.m. at OK Falls Public Library

**Attending:** Ruell Smith, Sam James, Sam Hancheroff, Christina Doherty, Janet Black, Sandy Walker, Pat Buckland  
( 2 child care attendants – thanks to Janet’s organization – and 6 children attended)

**Introductions:** Sandra and Josh Isted, parents of ages 0-6

**Community Facilitator report & Minutes approval** - postponed

New Business:

- planning for 2009 – brainstorming of ideas (see attached items)
- pizza and Congratulations “No 5” anniversary cake
- Christmas celebration

Next Meeting: January 12, 2009

Attachment:

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**Ok Falls CFK Strategic Planning Meeting:** Dec 8/08

1. Promote community capacity and leadership for early child health and development initiatives.

- organize an event for Spirit week Feb 07/08
- events at Keogan Park
- sessions for children 0-6 in movement and music
- T-shirts for Tball for under 6
- Have Lisa McCall do some fun exercises with kids
- Sponsor sessions giving parents time to chat – ask for input from them on what they'd like to see in Ok Falls for their children – have children there; 1 to 2 hours/ conduct a survey
- Have a suggestion box
- Set up a suggestion box
- Have a community bulletin board (at Chamber of Commerce?) for advertising ECD info/ at Johnson Meier insurance office area?
- Have a monthly spot on the school newsletter
- “adopt a grandparent” sponsorship

2. Increase family awareness of and family support access to early childhood development resources and supports.

- meet with Community Partners Club set up by Janet through Recreation
- increase members
- Survey parents regarding their vision of what they would like in Ok Falls – ask their permission to contact for further information from them
- Have a CFK Day that's just CFK: food, prizes, child care/ CFK owns an event/ have lots of fun stuff there
- Do more website promotion and updating
- Have more activities at community events ex. At light up give out Rudolph noses to everyone
- Small donations to service groups

3. Facilitate community commitment to and sustainability of early childhood development initiatives.

- vision – what is it?
- Apply for grants – music, dance, art
- Use our individual strengths and our power collectively as a group
- Identify our weaknesses and act on them
- Mentorship – encourage students to be involved/help
- “intermingling” of age groups ie. Seniors being involved with 0-6
- accessing RDOS for early learning – park discretionary fund
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4. Build a foundation to support sustainability of early childhood:

- Area D (RDOS) director “networking”

Note: lots of these ideas cover some or all of the 4 goals of CFK.

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