Understanding the Early Years

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

COMMUNITIES FOR KIDS

Minutes for CFK table meeting held on Monday, March 9, 2009 at the Okanagan Falls Elementary School Library at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Ruell Smith, Lindsay Clements, Karen-Ann Atkinson, Sam James

Old Business

- Books for Babies – Pat is waiting to hear from Val McGee from the OK Falls Legion about more funding for the Books for Babies program. Georgia Bruyel (ORL) has reported that there are only 4 books left for children who are now 6 months old.

- The table still has $100.86 in unallocated funds for the year.

Reports

- STRONGSTART CENTER – Sam reported that parents have been using her new suggestion box. She is still waiting to hear about the possibility of a swing for small children in the playground area at the school – should hear by the end of March.
- The parents would really like to have a coffee afternoon, possibly using the meeting room in the Community Center. Child care issues still need to be addressed (e.g. funding for the care, staffing, licencing input about the number of children allowed)
- The Center's free book box is very popular – lots of trading going on.
-Vision tests were offered for 3 olds – 2 children were tested and some appointments made..
-Ready, Set, Learn – Wednesday, Mar. 11 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. will begin in the Strongstart room with free pizza. The open house will then move to the Preschool classroom and end with Tumble Bumble in the gymnasium, along with displays and information important for parents of 4 year olds. 32 families have registered so far. Books and two prize baskets have been donated for draws at the event.
-Registration – 84 children have been officially registered at the Centre, with anther 26 to be added.

PUBLIC HEALTH – Karen-Ann reported on the Baby Talk program in Penticton, beginning again in May. Still no facilitator for OK Falls, but the coffee afternoon (see above) might be turned into a Baby Talk if it is successful. OK Falls parents welcome to attend the Penticton program, but transportation is sometimes a problem.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB – The last session of Parenting Wisely in Oliver was for teens – only three families got certificates. They are now using the local Pac newsletters to let parents

know about their program for young children. The next session will probably be in the fall.

TABLED

- Discussion regarding some kind of permanent sign in the community for upcoming events.

- The Directory

- The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, April 27, 2009