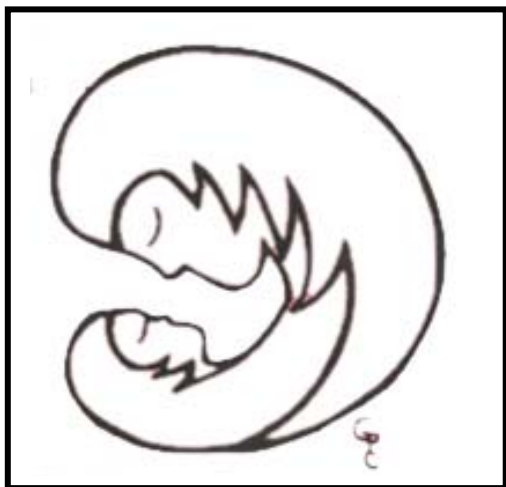


Community Healing and Intervention Program Newsletter: Ēumayitnamu (Spring) 2002

Ki'su'k Kyukyit! Welcome to the Ēumayitnamu (Spring) 2002 CHIP newsletter.

Spring is a time of new growth and new life. Learning about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder is an on-going process of growth and renewal. To fit the spring season, the theme of this edition of the CHIP newsletter is **"Learning about FAS/ARND."**

This newsletter will highlight some of the resources and resource people that CHIP has worked with over the past year. In addition, some new learning opportunities such as on-line FAS/ARND courses will be described.



Speech and Language development of children with FAS and/or ARND

*By Mary McKenna
CHIP Early Intervention Planner*

Children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) or Alcohol Related Neurodevelopmental Disorders (ARND) may have difficulties in learning language.

Children with FAS or ARND may show difficulty understanding language. They show difficulty processing verbal information and gaps in understanding of vocabulary and concept words. This difficulty in understanding language often goes unnoticed.

Community Healing and Intervention Program

Newsletter: Eumayitnamu (Spring) 2002

Children with FAS or ARND appear very verbal. They talk quite a bit, but on a closer listen one notices that their language is not specific. They use words like "thing", "that", "this", "there", rather than the particular object name. They have difficulty coming up with the specific word for an object. This is known as "word finding problems". They also have difficulty expressing ideas verbally. Difficulty pronouncing sounds and words (i.e. articulation errors) are common.

Children with FAS or ARND have difficulty in social situations. They may have difficulty using appropriate eye contact. They have difficulty interpreting social situations and rules and do not know how to respond.

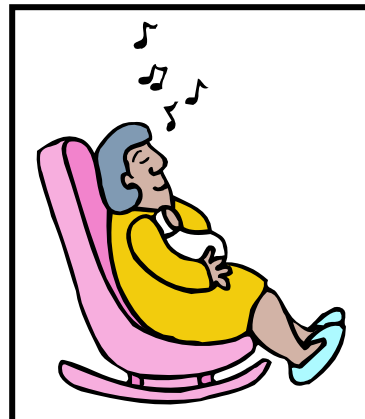
If you have concerns about a child's communication development, talk to a speech and language pathologist and request a complete speech and language assessment. Contact the Cranbrook Health Unit at

426- 1360 or your school principal to speak to a speech-language pathologist.

Children with FAS or ARND are at greater risk for hearing impairments due, in part, to structural abnormalities. Hearing should be monitored. To request a hearing assessment, ask your doctor for a referral to an audiologist. In the East Kootenays, hearing assessments are performed at the Cranbrook Health Unit.

The communication difficulties of children with FAS or ARND are often overlooked. Poor communication skills may be the reason these children show behaviour problems.

For more information about this, contact CHIP at 489-3373.

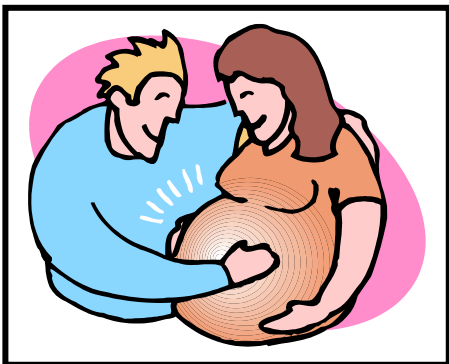


Community Healing and Intervention Program Newsletter: Eumayitnamu (Spring) 2002

The Latest Update from Mary McKenna, *CHIP Early Intervention Planner*

I presented a poster session at the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA) annual conference in Victoria. The purpose of the poster session was to raise awareness among speech-language pathologists and audiologists about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Alcohol Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder as they relate to speech, language, and hearing issues. I partnered with the FAS Bookshelf who provided a list of their resources.

As a result of the poster session, I was asked to join a newly formed CASLPA committee which hopes to address the issues around FAS.



Infant Massage:

Infant Massage can be wonderful for all babies, especially for babies who have been prenatally exposed to alcohol.

Here are a few of the benefits of infant massage for babies who have been prenatally exposed to alcohol:

- ❖ Increases baby's ability to maintain a functional alert state
- ❖ Helps babies learn to accept and tolerate positive touch
- ❖ Helps baby sleep longer and deeper
- ❖ Helps to regulate tactile hyper-sensitivity or hypo-sensitivity
- ❖ Improved eye contact and socialization

If you are interested in infant massage, contact a Registered Massage Therapist in your community.

Community Healing and Intervention Program Newsletter: Eumayitnamu (Spring) 2002



Art is an FAS-Friendly Strategy

Art can be used informally by doodling or drawing very basic cartoons. Art can be used more formally by working with a registered art therapist.

Here are a few examples of how art can be used as an FAS-friendly strategy for children and youth who are affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol:

- ❖ As a relaxation strategy
- ❖ As an activity that builds success and self-esteem
- ❖ As a way to communicate, using visuals instead of words
- ❖ As a way to build social skills and relationships
- ❖ As a way to build employable skills



Four FAS/ARND Learning Opportunities

1. University of Wisconsin-Madison

- ❖ Department of Professional Development and Applied Studies
- ❖ A series of four internet-based courses addressing FAS/ARND and related issues
 - ❖ 8 hours to 20 hours per course
- ❖ Continuing education credits or undergraduate/graduate credit
- ❖ Course Objectives:
 - ❖ Increase current knowledge of FAS/ARND and related issues
 - ❖ Promote understanding of complex issues affecting individuals with FAS/ARND and their families and caregivers

Community Healing and Intervention Program

Newsletter: Eumayitnamu (Spring) 2002

- ❖ Share current research information and practical applications
- ❖ Promote Discussion
- ❖ Cost: \$29.00 U.S. to \$69.00 U.S.
- ❖ Contact Person:
 - ❖ Hilary Thompson
 - ❖ hilarylthompson@hotmail.com
 - ❖ Ph. 608-265-9542

2. Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology

- ❖ Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Course - HDCP 140 (virtual)
- ❖ 20-week home study course
- ❖ To receive credit for this course, a minimum grade of 60% is required
- ❖ Cost: \$245.00 Cnd.
- ❖ Contact Person:
 - ❖ thomsons@siast.sk.ca

3. Organic Brain Dysfunction Triage Institute

- ❖ www.obdtriage.com
- ❖ Ph. 403-949-3991
- ❖ The founder's name is Liz Lawryk; CHIP brought Liz to the East Kootenays in September 2001 to speak about FAS/ARND assessment & diagnosis.
- ❖ Training sessions will be in the use of the Organic Brain Dysfunction Triage Assessment Model: A Screening Instrument for use in the Medical Evaluation of Teratogenic Effects on Embryonic Development

- ❖ This is the pre-screening tool that Liz has developed
- ❖ The Goals of the OBD Triage Assessment Model are to :
 - Ensure diagnostic physicians have accurate, relevant information required for a diagnosis of organic brain injury
 - Reduce the incidence of inappropriate referrals for medical evaluation
 - Investigate genetic load factors, nutritional and health status, physical injury to the mother (fetus) and other teratogenic possibilities that may compromise fetal development with outcomes to be provided for the diagnostic physician's analysis and evaluation
 - Elevate the current standard of screening and enhance diagnostic outcomes
 - Provide children, youth and adults involved with Community and Social Services agencies with a detailed, precise chronological history including social, genetic, medical, cognitive and behavioral issues and appropriate services pending medical evaluation
 - Present biological mothers with support services in pre and post screening stages of assessment in order to augment provision of

Community Healing and Intervention Program

Newsletter: Eumayitnamu (Spring) 2002

information and address
prevention issues

- Collect Canadian content and global data (statistics) to be available for use in further research, policy planning and prevention strategies
- ❖ The prerequisites for being accepted into the training program are:
 - 1. Confirmation of completion of graduate studies educational status (degrees)
 - 2. Affirmation of current good standing with respective mandatory professional association
 - 3. Documentation of accredited hours in specified area of clinical practice to date and summary of skills
 - 4. Two letters of reference (include telephone numbers/e-mail address)
 - Cost for evaluation of prerequisites: \$35.00
 - Cost for two-day training session: \$895.00

4. FAS and other drug-related effects: Doing What Works

- ❖ Pre-conference workshops: Thurs. Feb. 20, 2003
- ❖ Main conference: Fri. & Sat. Feb. 21 & 22, 2002

- ❖ Location: The Coast Plaza Hotel and Suites, 1763 Comox St., Vancouver
- ❖ Program brochure available in October 2002
- ❖ Call for abstracts for Main Conference presentations; workshops and poster presentations
- ❖ "The conference does not cover honouraria, accommodation, travel or other associated expenses of accepted abstract presenters"
- ❖ For more info. contact UBC Interprofessional Continuing Education: Ph. 604-822-4965 or www.interprofessional.ubc.ca



CHIP would like to **congratulate Arlene Teasley and Jason Louie** for submitting a proposal to the B.C. Aboriginal Network on Disabilities and subsequently receiving funding to put on a community workshop regarding Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Alcohol-

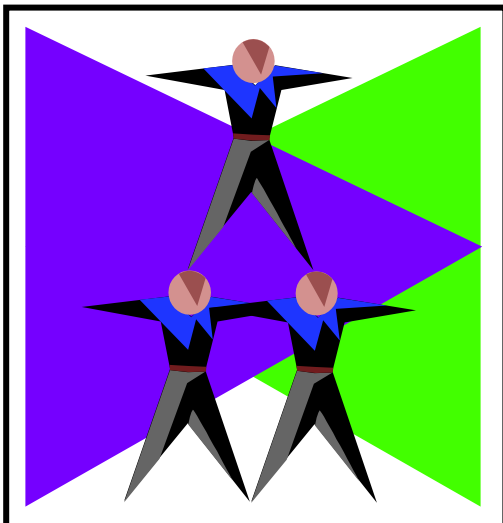
Community Healing and Intervention Program Newsletter: Eumayitnamu (Spring) 2002

Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder.

The workshop took place on April 30, 2002 at Lower Kootenay, and it was an extremely successful event that covered a wide range of issues related to FAS/ARND, for example:

- ❖ The history of alcoholism in the community
- ❖ Foster parents
- ❖ Barriers and success stories
- ❖ Alcohol & Drug Treatment workers
- ❖ Birth mothers
- ❖ First Nations Liaisons

Once again, congratulations to Arlene and Jason, as well as the presenters and participants, who made this workshop such a success.



Fast Facts About CHIP

Mandate: To provide holistic, culturally sensitive support services to Aboriginal children and Aboriginal youth who are affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol and who live in the East Kootenay region

The CHIP Team:

John Barnes:

- ❖ Ph. 250-489-3373

Jason Louie:

- ❖ Ph. 250-428-9816

Lynnette Wray:

- ❖ Ph. 250-489-3373

Mary McKenna:

- ❖ Ph. 250-342-2645

Sue Bannatyne:

- ❖ Ph. 250-423-5041

Jan McGinn:

- ❖ Ph. 250-489-3373

CHIP would like to thank the following organizations for their on-going support:

- ❖ The Interior Health Authority of British Columbia for funding CHIP
- ❖ The Ktunaxa Independent School Society for administering CHIP
- ❖ The College of the Rockies for housing and maintaining CHIP's collection of FAS/ARND resources

THANK YOU!