



Windermere Valley Early Learning Programs and Services

The following family drop-in programs are offered free of charge.



Baby Goose: for parents with babies up to 18 months. Join us for rhymes, songs and stories, guest speakers and baby topic discussions for you and your baby; Fridays 9:30 - 11:30 am, Eileen Madson Primary, Invermere.

Contact Katie Andruschuk, Coordinator: 250-688-2115



StrongStart: for parents/caregivers and children 0-school age. Activities include circle time; play based learning centers, a nutritious snack and gross motor play.

Martin Morigeau Elementary School, Canal Flats: Mondays and Thursdays 9 -11 am.

Eileen Madson Primary School, Invermere: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 9-11am.

Edgewater Elementary School, Edgewater: Wednesdays and Fridays 9-11am.

Contact Katie Andruschuk, Coordinator: 250-688-2115



CAPC: for parents/caregivers and children; Fall Adventures includes walks around the neighbourhood, picnics in the park and scavenger hunts; Tuesdays 9-11 am;

Kiddies Kitchen plan, prepare and eat a healthy snack or lunch; Wednesdays 9-11 am, Headwaters, Canal Flats. Facilitator: Pattie 250-349-5360



Aboriginal Head Start Program: aboriginal parents/caregivers and children 0-6. This program is based on social interaction, emotional support, healthy habits, education and cultural opportunities. It may be possible for transportation to be arranged for interested families; Mondays – Thursdays 12:30-4:30 pm. Facilitator: Kathleen 250-342-6331



Parents & Preschoolers Play and Plant: parents and children 0-school age, gather for digging, planting, bug watching and socializing; Wednesdays 10am. Invermere College of the Rockies 250-342-3210. Facilitator: Ally 250-342-3337



Invermere Public Library: Preschooler's story time year round. Join us for stories and crafts each Friday at 10:30 AM. This 45 minute program includes stories, songs, finger plays, and crafts. The goal of the program is to introduce children to the library and the pleasure of books. 250-342-6416 www.invermere.bclibrary.ca

Wednesday Play: for parents/providers and children to enjoy the open space of the community hall while visiting with other families; Wednesdays 9-11 am, Invermere Community Hall.



Additional Community Services Include:

Family Resource Centre A non-profit charitable society offering support, advocacy and counselling services to children, youth and families. Pat Cope 250-342-5566

East Kootenay Infant Development Program Home based program for families with children 0-3 years who are at risk or delayed in development. George Dzelzkalns 250-346-3346

East Kootenay Supported Child Development Program Early learning centre based for children 0-12 years who require extra support. Siri Tilling 250-342-9552

Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services Society A program for both on and off reserve Aboriginal families with children ages 0-6 years. Charlene Sperling 1-888-489-4563

Child and Youth Mental Health Promotes develops and supports the capacity for healthy children and family development.
Ministry of Children and Family Development 250-342-4367

Vision Screening for young children. Interior Health 250-342-2360 3 and 5 year olds only (children 0-3, 4 and 6 years please call a local optometrist)

Columbia Valley Food Bank Services clients throughout the Columbia Valley. 250-342-0850

Identification Kits for Children Each year, The Lake Windermere District Lions Club distributes identification kits for children in the Windermere Valley through the elementary schools in Edgewater, Invermere, Windermere, and Canal Flats.
250-342-8890

East Kootenay Child Care Resource and Referral Supporting families with child care referrals, child care subsidy information. Please ask about our Toy Lending Library and Craft supply Store 1-800-661-2445 or 1-250-426-5677 ekccrr@shawlink.ca.



Columbia Valley Good Food Co-op Boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables at a savings over regular retail prices. The program is available to anyone in the community who would like to join. The contacts for each community are: **Invermere:** Family Resource Centre (250-342-5566); **Edgewater:** Erica Schneider (250-347-9690); **Radium & Juniper Heights:** Marion Hoover (250-342-2678); **Wilmer, Windermere and Fairmont:** Contact the Family Resource Centre (250-342-5566)

Pediatric Speech Language Pathology For children 0-6 years who need help with understanding, speaking and or feeding skills.
Interior Health 250-342-2360

Pediatric Occupational Therapist For children 0-6 years who face challenges with daily life tasks. Interior Health 250-342-2360

Pediatric Physiotherapy For children 0-6 years who need help with balance, movement, strength and coordination. Interior Health 250-342-2360

Public Health Immunizations, screening and follow up for children 0-6 years. Invermere Health Unit 250-342-2360

Friends of Children Society A non-profit organization that assists families with children in extraordinary medical need: providing resource information and emotional support; coordinating efforts with other organizations and service providers; offering assistance grants for emergency medical needs. 1-866-564-2217

Success by 6 an early childhood development (ECD) initiative of the United Way and is dedicated to providing all children with a good start in life. The initiative is made possible by the provincial partnership between the Credit Union's of BC, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and the United Way. 250-427-5663

Children First initiatives support communities to identify and develop an integrated and comprehensive model of Early Childhood Development [ECD] service delivery for children 0 to 6 years of age and their families. 250-426-2542

Canadian Tire Jumpstart a community-based charitable program that helps kids aged 4-18 participate in organized sports and recreation such as hockey, dance, soccer and swimming, so they can develop important life skills, self esteem and confidence. 1-877-616-6600



WV ECD Team The Windermere Valley Early Childhood Development Team is a strong, inclusive team that works together, shares expertise and makes the best use of resources to promote the healthy development of children aged 0-6 throughout the Windermere Valley.

- **Books for Toddlers** A toddler size “swag” bags compiled by the WV ECD Team and distributed by Interior Health Unit Nurses to toddlers at their 18 month visits.
- **Healthy Eating Project** for child care providers, parents and their children 0-6 years in the Windermere Valley, raising awareness of the importance of healthy eating to support children's growth and learning.
- **Family Friendly Business Initiative** acknowledging businesses in the Windermere Valley for being family friendly.
- **Windermere Valley Community Services Guide** a listing of professionals, societies, early learning programs, sports, recreation, playground, schools and important numbers for children 0-6 years and their families in the Windermere Valley.
- **www.facebook.com/wvecd** a social media page to share the early childhood development in the Windermere Valley.
- **Early Often messages** Read Early Read Often; Listen Early Listen Often; Play Early Play Often; Sing Early Sing Often; Talk Early Talk Often
- **www.windermere.EKkids.ca** a website to share the early childhood development in the Windermere Valley.
- **Children's Recreational Fund** Provides a subsidy for children 0-6 years to assist with fees and equipment to participate in Windermere Valley recreational programs.

Success By 6
Helping all children succeed for life.

