

OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

ELIGIBILITY – child must meet one of the following criteria to access services.

- Developmental Disability (IQ based at approximately 70)
- Screened eligible for the At Home Program (based on physical dependency)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder

SERVICES

MCFD RESPITE – all programs may have a waitlist. *Respite services are not available for children in care.*

- (1) Respite through MCFD is provided in an approved child care resource (usually overnight and out of the child's home).
- (2) **COMMUNITY OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES**: a non-profit organization funded by MCFD, who do their own home studies and matching of caregivers and families.
- (3) **AT HOME PROGRAM**: Full eligibility provides medical equipment, supplies and therapies and respite up to \$2800/year to purchase their own respite according to personal need.
- (4) **DIRECT FUNDED RESPITE**: provides families with up to \$2800/year to purchase their own respite according to personal need.

COMMUNITY SERVICES PARENTS ACCESS THROUGH THEIR SOCIAL WORKER

- (1) **SPECIAL SERVICES**: provides a child care worker to a child and/or family, working on 1-1 goal oriented basis or in a group social setting. Resources include Phoenix, and Sooke Options.
- (2) **HOMEMAKERS**: in-home relief or assistance with homemaking and/or childcare during a crisis, usually short term.
- (3) **LAUREL GROUP**: Autism specialists providing professional support services including consultation, behavioural support, training, etc., to children with autism, in the home, community and schools. Some children without autism may be referred for behavioural support.
- (4) **ALICE RICHARD**: provides counselling and therapeutic assessment on a 1-1 basis with children and their families.
- (5) **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM (VIHA)**: provides mental health support to children 14 and over with developmental disabilities AND severe emotional, behavioural or psychiatric disabilities.
- (6) **AUTISM INITIATIVES**:
 - Under 6 Funding: up to \$22,000/yr per child available to families to purchase specialized autism interventions.
 - Over 6 Funding (6-19): up to \$6,000/yr per child available to families to purchase autism interventions.
- (7) **SUMMER PROGRAMS**: children with special needs may be referred to various summer programs. A booklet is mailed out to all parents in the spring.
- (8) **TRANSITION SUPPORT**: Adult planning for children with special needs occurs between 17 to 19, looking at supports in the areas of eligibility for CLBC Adult Services, daytime activity, residential needs and leisure activity. Children living at home may be eligible to receive PWD benefits at 18 (19 if they are in care) and full medical benefits.

COMMUNITY SERVICES PARENTS ACCESS INDEPENDENTLY

- (1) RECREATION INTEGRATION: provides 1-1 support to individuals with special needs enabling them to attend their local community recreation centre programs. Phone 477-6314 (ask about the Leisure Assistant's Pass).
- (2) OPERATION TRACKSHOES: Phone 721-2233.
- (3) SUPPORTED HORSEBACK RIDING: Phone 778-426-0506 or 250-588-2583 or 250-883-1553.
- (4) SPECIAL OLYMPICS: opportunities to participate in a variety of sports (bowling, swimming, skating, softball, rhythmic gymnastics, etc.)
Telephone 250-298-7536 or 250-812-6028 or visit www.victoriaspecialolympics.com.
- (5) RESPITALITY: provides overnight respite to parents at local hotels, phone 995-6412 if they currently receive respite.
- (6) FAMILY SUPPORT INSTITUTE: a network of resource parents (parents helping parents). Phone 1-800-441-5403 or visit www.familysupportbc.com
- (7) LIFETIME NETWORKS: works with families, their friends and volunteers to develop and maintain personal supports around an individual with special needs. Phone 250-477-4112.
- (8) GREATER VICTORIA DOWN SYNDROME SOCIETY: Support and networking for people caring for children with Down Syndrome. Visit www.gvdss.org
- (9) VICTORIA CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC: provides music therapy to children with disabilities. Phone 250-386-5311 or visit www.vcm.bc.ca.
- (10) QUEEN ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL: provides outreach programs in community and schools that include family support, social work, psychology, nutrition, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, Autism assessments, FASD support, etc. Phone 250-519-5390.
- (11) MICROBOARD INFORMATION: c/o VELA Phone 1-604-575-2588 or visit www.microboard.org.
- (12) B.C. PARKS PASS: Provides a pass for people on the At Home Program to camp free in provincial parks. Requires a letter from Social Worker. Phone (250) 387-5002 1-800-689-9025
- (13) B.C. TRANSIT TRAVEL TRAINING: Transit has their own training program helping individuals learn to use the bus. Phone 250-384-7723. www.bctransit.com/regions/vic/accessible/registration-community-travel.cfm
- (14) B.C. FERRIES: Provides reduced rates for people with disabilities and their escorts.
Phone: (250) 381-1401 Toll Free: 1-888-223-3779 or visit www.bcferries.com/travel_planning/disabilities.html
- (15) HANDYDART: provides transportation for people with disabilities. Phone 250-727-7811.
- (16) WESTJET: offers accommodations for travellers with special needs. Phone 1-888-937-8538
www.westjet.com/guest/en/travel/special-arrangements/special-needs/one-person.shtml
- (17) ACCESS 2 ENTERTAINMENT: reduced rates for support persons accompanying a person with a disability to a movie theatre. Visit www.access2card.ca/programinformation/
- (18) TEEN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: afterschool program for youth with disabilities ages 13 to 18.
Phone 250-477-7231 ext: 237.
- (19) SUPPORTED CHILD DEVELOPMENT: provide supports to child care setting. Contact Jenni Funk, Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health 2400 Arbutus Road jennifer.funk@viha.ca 250.519.6961
- (20) CHILDCARE SUBSIDY: childcare support and information. Greater Victoria phone 250 356-6501
- (21) CHILDCARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL: Victoria phone Tel: 250-382-7000 Toll-Free: 1-800-750-1868
West Shore Phone 250-391-4324 Sooke phone 250-642-5152