

COMMUNITY MATTERS

For the good of our community



FAMILY-CENTERED PROGRAMMING FOR INFANTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS

Having a baby is a joyous and scary time for most new parents. For some, one of the most heart-breaking moments is learning that their baby has a diagnosed disability. Others struggle navigating the healthcare system while figuring out the responsibilities of parenting a tiny premature baby who spends the first weeks or months in hospital. Still others discover that their child is not meeting developmental milestones, or receive a diagnosis of a developmental delay in the first few, most formative, years.

RSCL's Infant Development Program (IDP) offers early intervention services for all infants born with a developmental delay and for those with special needs.

The program serves children from birth to three years who live in Richmond and are at risk for, or who already have, a delay in development. This family-centred program empowers parents to choose the type of support that they need to help their child to reach full potential.

From birth to three years, a child develops at a rapid pace with the relationship between child and caregiver(s) providing the foundation upon which all other areas of development rest. Physical, social, emotional, behavioral, communication and intellectual development depend on experiences provided by the infant's family.

IDP Consultants visit families in their homes to encourage the child's progress, introducing new activities and

supporting parents. This free service includes giving suggestions on how to connect with their child through play and providing information on community resources. IDP Consultants also provide referrals to other specialists and then work as a team with them to support the family.

Parent participation playgroups and workshops provide parents and primary caregivers with the tools to be their child's best teacher during these important first years. Developmentally appropriate toys and books are available through the RSCL Lending Library, allowing parents to "test-drive" costly items prior to purchase or simply to borrow for time that the child will benefit from the toy.

Did you know



RSCL Infant Development Program receives primary funding through the Ministry of Children and Families. Parent participation groups and the RSCL Lending Library would not be possible without the additional funding received from:

- ▶ United Way of the Lower Mainland
- ▶ CKNW Orphan's Fund
- ▶ Family Respite
- ▶ Green Shield Canada

Many thanks to all our funders!

