

Okanagan Foster Parents Association

Resource Guide 2006



**For Foster Parents in the
North Okanagan
Who Care For
Children & Youth with
Special Needs**

Disclaimer: All listings included in this guide are for information purposes only. Okanagan Foster Parents Association does not recommend or endorse any agency or individual contained herein. The exclusion of an organization does not indicate lack of approval.

This Guide is available on the
Okanagan Foster Parents Association Web Site

www.okfosterparents.org

March 29, 2006

Okanagan Foster Parents Association is pleased to provide this Resource Guide for Foster Parents in the North Okanagan who care for children and youth with special needs. This publication is made possible through funding from the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Province of British Columbia.

I would like to thank the many Foster Parents who suggested services for inclusion in this Guide, as well as the North Okanagan Children in Care Committee. Much of the material came from these excellent Service Directories:

- *Can We Help You? A Guide to Services in the North Okanagan*
Social Planning Council of the North Okanagan, May, 2005
Available on-line at www.canwehelpyou.ca

- *Parents with Children 0 to 6 Years – 2005 Resource Guide*
A Building Blocks Project created by the Family Resource Centre & Whitevalley Community Resource Centre
Available on-line at www.vernonfrc.ca

- *In Your Grasp: British Columbia 's Family Resource Database*
The on-line regional and provincial database of available community resources for BC families - provided by BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations, Adoptive Families Association of BC, and Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents
Available on-line at www.inyourgrasp.bc.ca

This Guide is printed in a manner that will facilitate regular updates, since this is definitely a “work in progress”. Please let me know if you have suggestions for services to be included in future revisions of this publication.

Noelle Typusiak

Noelle Typusiak
Foster Parent Coordinator
Okanagan Foster Parents Association, North Okanagan
#301 - 3402 - 27th Ave.
Vernon, B.C. V1T 1S1
Phone/Fax: (250)558-0939
E-Mail: NOKsupport@okfosterparents.org



**Resource Guide 2006
For Foster Parents in the North Okanagan
Who Care For Children & Youth with Special Needs**

Table of Contents

Professional/Health

BC 24 Hour Nurse Line	Pro/Health 1
B.C. Childrens Hospital	Pro/Health 1
Okanagan Ability Centre for Children and Youth	Pro/Health 1
Interior Health, North Okanagan Health Centres	Pro/Health 2
Individualized Adapted Driving Program	
Armstrong, Pleasant Valley Health Centre	
Lumby Health Centre	
Vernon Health Unit	
Nursing Support Services	
Audiology	
Speech/Language Services	
Dental Health	
Nutrition and Community Development	
Options for Sexual Health	
Public Health Nursing	
Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children	Pro/Health 2

Local Support Services

First Nations Friendship Centre	Support 1
FASD Program	
Infant Development	
HandyDART - Vernon Regional	Support 1
Learning Disabilities Association of BC - Vernon Chapter	Support 1
Okanagan College, Continuing Studies	Support 2
NONA - North Okanagan Neurological Association	Support 2
Infant Development	
Speech Language Therapy	
Physio/Occupational Therapy	
Supported Child Care	
Family Support	
Respite Care	
Music Therapy	
Autism Services	
North Okanagan Youth and Family Services Society (NOYFSS)	Support 3
ADD/ ADHD Parent Training	
Intensive Support Program	
Program Support Services -Residential Clinical Consultant	
Red Cross Loan Cupboard	Support 3
Robertson Rehabilitation Inc.	Support 3
Adapted Driving Program	

School District No 22	Support 4
Student Support Services	
School District No 83	Support 4
Student Support Services	
Tetra Society of North America, Armstrong Chapter	Support 4
Vernon Disability Resource Center	Support 5
Peer Support	
Information and Referral	
Employment	
Designated Parking Permit	
Computer Services	

Provincial Support Services

B.C. Aboriginal Network on Disability Society	Support 6
British Columbia Association for Community Living	Support 6
BC Coalition of People with Disabilities	Support 6
Cerebral Palsy Association of British Columbia	Support 7
Computers for Schools	Support 7
Easter Seal House – Vancouver	Support 7
Family Support Institute	Support 8
Gizeh Shriners of BC & Yukon	Support 8
Shriners Care Cruiser Program	
Special Needs Adoptive Parents (SNAP)	Support 8

Recreation

Armstrong Spallumcheen Boys and Girls Club	Recreation 1
Boys & Girls Club, Vernon	Recreation 1
Achievers Program	
Club Friday	
Eureka Outdoor Camp	Recreation 1
Greater Vernon Parks, Recreation & Culture	Recreation 2
Aqua Dapt	
Aqua Percept	
Lions Society of BC	Recreation 2
Easter Seal Camps	
Camp Winfield	
Real Cool Youth Group, Kindale	Recreation 3
Silver Star Adaptive Snow Sports	Recreation 3
Sovereign Lake Nordic Club Adaptive Skiers	Recreation 3
Special Olympics – Vernon Area	Recreation 3
Therapeutic Riding Association, North Okanagan(NOTRA)	Recreation 4
Vernon Disability Resource Center	Recreation 4
Peer Support Program for Youth with Disabilities	
Whitecrow Family Camp	Recreation 4

Professional/Health

BC 24 Hour Nurse Line

Toll Free: 1-866-215-4700

TTY: 1-866-889-4700

Website: www.bchealthguide.org

British Columbians have 24-hour, toll-free access to registered nurses specially trained to provide confidential health information and advice on the telephone. A telephone service is available for B.C. residents who are deaf or hard of hearing, and language translation services are available on request in 130 languages.

The nurses will help you understand and manage your health problems, provide information on medically-sound treatment options, and advise when to see a health professional. They will answer your questions confidently about various health topics, tests and procedures, and help you to learn what other resources might exist in your community.

B.C. Childrens Hospital

4480 Oak Street

Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4

Main Switchboard: (604) 875-2345

E-mail: info@bcch.phsa.ca

Website: www.bcchildrens.ca

Okanagan Ability Centre for Children and Youth

#202 – 2141 Springfield Rd.

Kelowna, BC V1Y 7X1

Phone: (250) 762-7790

Fax: (250) 762-7903

(250) 762-7790

E-mail: abilitycentre@telus.net

Provide assessment and diagnostic services for children and youth, especially FASD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Learning Disabilities, and Private Psycho-ed Learning Assessments.

Interior Health
North Okanagan Health Centres

Armstrong
Pleasant Valley Health Centre

3800 Patten drive
Box 364
Armstrong, B.C. V0E 1B0
Phone: (250) 546-4727

Lumby Health Centre

22135 Norris Ave.
Lumby, B.C.
Phone: (250) 547-2164

Vernon Health Unit

1440 – 14th Ave
Vernon, B.C. V1B 2T1
Phone:(250) 549-5700
Upstairs Fax: 549-5468
Downstairs Fax: 549-5711

Health Centres (Health Units) offer a wide variety of programs and services. Not all services listed below will be available at all Health Centres. Please call for more information.

Nursing Support Services

(250) 549-5721

Assists with the health care services and support to parents caring for children with severe handicaps.

Audiology

(250) 549-5760

Diagnostic and rehabilitative services to referred patients with hearing impairments, as well as early detection and prevention programs to minimize the effects of hearing impairment. Provide counseling, maintenance, and repair services along with the fitting of hearing devices.

Speech/Language Services

549-5760

On referral from any source, including physicians, public health nurses and self-referrals. Identification, diagnosis and treatment of communication and swallowing difficulties for pre-schoolers and adults.

Dental Health

Nutrition and Community Development

Options for Sexual Health

Public Health Nursing

Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children

3644 Slocan Street
Vancouver, BC V5M 3E8
Phone: (604) 453-8300
Fax: (604) 453-8301
Website: www.bcchildrens.ca/Services/SunnyHillHealthCtr

Local Support Services

First Nations Friendship Centre

2902 - 29th Avenue
Vernon, BC, V1T 1Y7
Phone: (250) 542-1247
Fax: (250) 542-3707
E-mail: fnfc@junction.net
Website: www.bcaafc.com/centres/vernon

FASD Program

(250) 558-5699
Provides FASD education and awareness to community through workshops & training sessions, offers a community resource lending library as well as individual and family counseling, advocacy, outreach and parent support services.

Infant Development

Supports parents of children (birth to age three) with developmental delays, and parents of at-risk infants. Offers home visits, workshops, and opportunities to meet other parents. Assists the family in planning a program of activities that encourages development in physical, intellectual, and self-help skills.

HandyDART - Vernon Regional

4210 - 24th Avenue
Vernon, BC, V1T 1M2
Phone: (250) 549-1366
E-mail: Kiatransit@telus.ca
Website: www.busonline.ca/regions/ver/accessible/handydart.cfm

A convenient door to door service for people who have difficulty using conventional transit busses due to a disability. Medical confirmation of need required.

There are two types of service:

Regular subscription trips - once a week or more often

One-time trips - for purposes such as shopping, social visits or recreational activities

Learning Disabilities Association of BC - Vernon Chapter

204, 3402 - 27th Avenue
Vernon, BC, V1T 1S1
Phone: (250) 542-5033
Fax: (250) 558-1514

A non-profit organization that Educates, Supports and Advocates for children with LD and/or AD(H)D and their families

Okanagan College, Continuing Studies

Kalamalka Campus
Phone: (250) 545-7291
Toll-free: 1-800-289-8993
E-mail: csnorth@okanagan.bc.ca
Website: www.okanagan.bc.ca/cs

Okanagan College offers a wide variety of classes including:

American Sign Language
ChildSafe
CPR
Therapeutic Massage

NONA - North Okanagan Neurological Association

2802 - 34th Street
Vernon, BC, V1T 5X1
Phone: (250) 549-1281
Fax: (250) 549-3771
E-mail: Administration@nona-cdc.com
Website: www.nona-cdc.com

The NONA Child Development Centre is a non-profit society dedicated to providing services for children with special needs through a family-centered approach. They provide individualized services to children with special needs, and support and education for their families. Programs offered are:

Infant Development	Children birth to three
Lets Play	
Infant Massage	
Parent-Child Mother Goose	
Parent - Tot Drop In	
Speech Language Therapy	Children birth to school age
Physio/Occupational Therapy	Children birth to school age
Supported Child Care	Children birth to twelve
Family Support	Children birth to nineteen
Respite Care	Children birth to nineteen
Music Therapy	Children birth to school age
Autism Services	Children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder - Birth to school age

North Okanagan Youth and Family Services Society (NOYFSS)

2900 32 Ave
Vernon, BC
Phone: (250) 545-3572
E-mail: noyfss@telus.net

A wide range of parenting courses at no cost to participants, pre-registration is required.
Programs of note:

ADD/ ADHD Parent Training

Parenting education, individualized management strategies. Advocacy.
Duration 1 month to 6 months depending on severity of situation and progress of the family.

Intensive Support Program

For Foster Parents and their Foster children ages 6 – 18 years.
Support for Foster Parents who wish to increase their skills and provide care for highly challenging youth.
Foster Parents may request this service through their Resource Worker, The Ministry of Children and Family Development
For More Information Phone: (250)545-6517

Program Support Services -Residential Clinical Consultant (Paul May)

For residential caregivers in Mara House, Intensive Support Program, and selected foster homes. Also for children identified by the Child and Youth Committee. A Counselor trained at the Masters Level will provide program design, consultation, support and follow up to residential caregivers and some "one on one" assessment and counseling to a limited caseload. 3-9 Months (on average)
Referral by MCFD or residential program. For more information phone 545-4908

Red Cross Loan Cupboard

2809 44th Ave
Vernon, BC
Phone: (250) 545-3111
Hours: Monday- Friday 10:00am-1:00pm

Medical equipment loan service. Doctor's prescription required.

Robertson Rehabilitation Inc.

#201-4710 31st St.
Vernon, BC V1T 5J9
Phone: (250) 558-4584
Fax: (250) 558-4671

**Adapted Driving Program
Individualized Adapted Driving Program**

This company offers several services for disabled clients for a fee. The adapted driving program offers a 5-hour clinical and on the road assessment, in order to determine an individual's potential to return to driving. The individualized driver training offers remedial driving lessons to compensate for physical or cognitive impairments.

School District No 22

1401 15th Street
Vernon, BC, V1T 8S8
Phone: (250) 542-3331
Fax: (250) 549-9200
Website: www.sd22.bc.ca
Student Support Services
549-9240

School District No 83

220 Shuswap St. N.E.
Box 129
Salmon Arm V1E 4N2
Website: www.sd83.bc.ca
Student Support Services
Phone: 804-7828
Fax: 832-9428

A wide variety of support services are offered for school-age children. For information about these services and the referral processes consult with the Principal, Learning Assistance Teacher, or Special Education Teacher at your child's school.

School Psychologist - Assessments and Programming
Speech Language Therapist
Occupational Therapist
Physiotherapist
Behaviour Specialist
Counseling
Special Education Technology Services
Teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
School Counselors
Substance Abuse Counselor
Alternate School Programs
Resource Room Programs
Learning Assistance Teachers
Special Education Teachers
Certified Education Assistance

Tetra Society of North America, Armstrong Chapter

3035 Douglas Ave
Armstrong, BC V0E 1B1
Phone: 250-546-6449
Fax: 250-546-6449

The purpose of Tetra is to recruit skilled volunteer engineers and technicians to create assistive devices for people with disabilities. Tetra recognizes that people are not handicapped by their disabilities but by obstacles or barriers in their living environment.

Vernon Disability Resource Center

Suite #107, 3402 27th Avenue

Vernon, BC V1T 1S1

Phone: (250) 545-9292

Fax: (250) 545-9226

TTY: (250) 542-2193

Toll Free: 1-877-288-1088

E-mail: info@vdrc.ca

Website: www.vdrc.ca

One stop information spot for people with disabilities:

Peer Support

Information and Referral

Employment

Designated Parking Permit

Computer Services

Provides free internet and computer access to the community. There is assistive technology available for people with a variety of disabilities. For example, the center offers a large print keyboard, trackball, Zoom text and Dragon Dictate software and raised desks for wheel chairs

Provincial Support Services

B.C. Aboriginal Network on Disability Society

1179 Kosapsum Crescent
Victoria, B.C. V9A 7K7
Phone: (250) 381-7303
Fax: (250) 381-7312
Toll Free: 1-888-815-5511
E-mail: carrie@bcands.bc.ca
Website: www.bcands.bc.ca

BCANDS provides a variety of support services and resources to help aboriginal people with disabilities, and others associated with the disabled.

British Columbia Association for Community Living

#300 - 30 East 6th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V5T 4P4
Phone: (604) 875-1119
Fax: (604) 875-6744
E-mail: info@bcacl.org
Website: www.bcacl.org

The BC Association for Community Living is a federation that advocates for children, youth and adults with developmental disabilities and their families to ensure justice, rights and opportunities in all areas of their lives.

BC Coalition of People with Disabilities

#204-456 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC
B5Y 1R3
Phone: (604) 875-0188
Fax: (604) 875-9227
TTY: (604) 875-8835
E-mail: feedback@bccpd.bc.ca
Website: www.bccpd.bc.ca

Advocate with all levels of government on policies and attitudes that affect people with disabilities.
Promote public awareness of issues through conferences, special projects and the media
Provide individual and group advocacy for people with disabilities
Serve on government panels and committees
Share information and self-help skills with individuals and disability groups

Cerebral Palsy Association of British Columbia

102-317 Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC, V3L 1A7
Phone: (604) 515-9455
Fax: (604) 515-9466
Toll Free: 1-800-663-0004
E-mail: info@bccerebralpalsy.com
Website: www.bccerebralpalsy.com

Promote and enhance an environment where individuals with Cerebral Palsy (CP) are able to maximize their potential and improve their lives.

Accomplish this mission through:

- Advocacy - encouraging networking
- Educating members of the public about Cerebral Palsy
- Government relations activities
- Implementing programs for individuals with Cerebral Palsy

Computers for Schools

2200 Douglas Road
Burnaby, BC V5C 5A7
phone: (604) 250-9936 or
toll-free:1-877-250-9936
Fax: (604) 648-9628
E-mail: mwaddington@cfsbc.ca
Website: www.cfsbc.ca/

Non-profit provider of refurbished computers to BC schools and communities, especially for school-aged children with a disability

Easter Seal House - Vancouver

3981 Oak Street
Vancouver, BC V6H 4H5
Phone: (604) 736-3475
Fax: (604) 736-3495
Reservations only: 1-800-818-3666
Email: eshousevcr@telus.net

Easter Seal House provides a low cost, caring place to stay for families visiting Vancouver to obtain medical treatment. With professional staff, large rooms, activity-filled playrooms and a supportive atmosphere they strive to help both families and individual patients through trying times.

The House has 53 self-contained rooms with laundry and lounge facilities and secured underground parking. The main floor is completely wheelchair accessible, with specially designed bathrooms and kitchens.

Please note: reservations can be accepted by phone only.

Family Support Institute

300, 30 East 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V5T 4P4
Phone: (604) 875-1119 or (250) 558-5526
Fax: (604) 875-6744
E-mail: info@familysupportbc.com
Website: www.familysupportbc.com

The Family Support Institute is a province-wide organization whose purpose is to support and strengthen families faced with the extraordinary circumstances that come with having a family member who has a disability. They believe that families are the best resource available to support one another. Directed by families, the Family Support Institute provides information, training and province-wide networking to assist families and their communities to build upon and share their strengths.

Gizeh Shriners of BC & Yukon

Phone: 1-800-661-KIDS
E-mail Shrine Travel Coordinator: shrinekids@shawcable.com

Shriners Care Cruiser Program

No charge! A bus picks up in Vernon on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday from the Sandman Hotel at 8:45 am going to appointments in Vancouver at Sunnyhill Hospital or BC Childrens Hospital. They return to Vernon from Vancouver on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday leaving Vancouver at 7:00 AM. Pick-up and drop-off is at the Shrine office in Burnaby, Easter Seal House, Canuck Place, Ronald McDonald House and Heather House. Will also pick up from BC Childrens Hospital or Sunnyhill Hospital by special arrangement. You may reserve the care cruiser for 1 child and escort. They will take other family members only if there is room on the bus. Can take wheelchairs, but you must tell them when you book

Special Needs Adoptive Parents (SNAP)

SNAP | Groundwork Press
101-2780 East Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5M 1Y8
Phone: (604) 687-3114
Fax: (604) 687-3364
Web: www.snap.bc.ca
E-mail: info@snap.bc.ca

SNAP has a trained province-wide Resource Parent Network that offers mutual and one-to-one support to families with challenges, a warm line, and educational workshops, conferences and seminars on special needs-related issues, such as FASD, attachment, and an introduction to special needs adoption. Their support services include a library of close to 15,000 items with up-to-date resources on many topics such as Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Learning Disabilities (LD), attachment issues and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Recreation

Boys & Girls Club, Vernon

3300 - 37th Avenue
Vernon, BC V1T 2Y5
Phone: 542.3121
Fax: 542.6559
E-mail: vernon@boysandgirlsclubs.ca
Website:
www.boysandgirlsclubs.ca/no_vernon

Armstrong Spallumcheen Boys and Girls Club

3385 Pleasant Valley Road
Armstrong, BC V0E 1B0
Phone: 546.1852
Fax: 546.3468
E-mail: armstrong@boysandgirlsclubs.ca
Website:
www.boysandgirlsclubs.ca/no_armstrongbg

Achievers Program

The Achievers Program is for school-age children and youth who have disabilities that limit their opportunities to fully participate socially in the community. The program is a unique social program that provides community integration. The children participate in social and recreational activities with 1 to 1 support from professional personnel or independently as a member of a larger group. Each child has an individual goal plan that is developed with the parents and our professional staff to work toward independence and a lifetime of activity and community involvement. Please call the Vernon Boys and Girls Club at 542-3121 Local 127 or email acheiversvernon@boysandgirlsclubs.ca for more information.

Club Friday

for children and youth 11-14

This program is specifically for children with special needs, but several children in care participate in this program. A recreational program for children and youth ages 11-14 provides recreational and social opportunities with various games, activities and out trips with a focus on healthy living styles. The program operates year round on Friday evenings only from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM except for statutory holidays. Please call the Vernon Boys and Girls Club at 542-3121 Local 110 for more information.

Eureka Outdoor Camp

22151 Wilson Ave
Richmond B.C. V6V 2P
Phone: (604-520-1155)
E-mail: info@eurekacamp.ca
Website: www.eurekacamp.ca

Advantage Society for Children with Learning Disabilities runs Spring Break and Summer Camps for children and youth with invisible disabilities (ADHD, Tourette Syndrome, OCD, mild autism, etc.)

Greater Vernon Parks, Recreation & Culture

3310-37 Avenue

Vernon B.C. V1T 2Y5

Phone: (250) 545-6035

Fax: (250) 550-3705

E-mail: info@greatervernonrecreation.ca

Website: www.greatervernonrecreation.ca/

Aqua Dapt

any age

This program is offered for those that require a 1:1 ratio, whether the concern be physical sensory, intellectual or a combination of challenges. Exercises and movement techniques will be offered by the instructor in the pool.

Children \$75 / Adults \$110.

Aqua Percept

4-14 years

We offer lessons specifically designed for children who are nonparticipating or uncomfortable in any regular physical activity. This child may have attention deficits or perceptual motor problems, needing help with social interaction, but is not hampered by physical or sensory disabilities. The gym and pool sessions will emphasize gross motor activities involved in climbing and safe use of equipment and will include a swim lesson and games. Aqua Percept is a national program that offers physical movement for the remediation of motor problems in children. 3:1 ratio will be implemented to encourage personalized instruction.

Costs: \$75

Lions Society of BC

3981 Oak Street

Vancouver, BC V6H 4H5

Phone: (604) 873-1865

Fax: (604) 873-0166

Toll Free: 1-800-818-4483

E-mail: info@lionsbc.ca

Easter Seal Camps

Camping program provides residential summer camp sessions for children 6 to 18 years of age who have a mental and/or physical disability. It is their goal to provide safe, fun activities in an environment where the focus is on abilities, not disabilities. All of the camp activities are designed to build confidence, independence and peer interaction in a recreational environment. Campers are encouraged and supported to participate in activities they may never have tried before.

Camp Winfield

The Okanagan site features two in-ground trampolines, a waterslide and a mini-golf course where campers can try their hand at this favored past time. Combine these outdoor activities with extensive indoor games room and fun is guaranteed regardless of the weather. Camp Winfield Program schedule is available at www.lionsbc.ca/programs/camps/dates.shtml#winfield

Real Cool Youth Group
Kindale

Website: www.kindale.org

A recreational/social group for youth with a developmental disability. For information contact Sherri 558-1997

Silver Star Adaptive Snow Sports

PO Box 534
Vernon, BC V1T 6M6
Phone: 558-1533
E-mail: info@ssass.bc.ca
Website: www.ssass.bc.ca

Provide ski and snowboard lessons for students of all ages with a variety of disabilities including Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, brain and/or spinal cord injuries, cognitive challenges and visual impairment. A team of volunteer instructors work closely with each student to determine the most appropriate method of traveling the slopes. The goal is to have each individual safely enjoying the snow in the least restrictive way possible.

Sovereign Lake Nordic Club Adaptive Skiers

Box 1231
Vernon, BC V1T 6N6
Office Phone: (250) 558-3036
Fax: (250) 558-3076
Toll Free: 1-877-768-5253
E-mail: info@sovereignlake.com
Website: www.sovereignlake.com

SLNC Adaptive Skiers program is for the physically challenged of all ages - with the emphasis on fun, participation, skill development, and safety. The objective of the program, which is part of the Sovereign Lake Nordic Club, is not only to provide an opportunity for the disabled community to access equipment and trails, but to encourage and assist in using adaptive cross country skiing as a healthy lifestyle choice for both recreational and competitive activities.

Special Olympics – Vernon Area

Box 741
Vernon, BC, V1T 6M1
Phone: (250) 545-7982
Website: www.bcsso.bc.ca

Special Olympics provide sports training and competitive opportunities for people with a mental disability. The Special Olympics organization provides services to adults and youth whose primary diagnosis is a mental disability, although some participants also have physical challenges. Sports available in Vernon include:

Bowling
Floor Hockey

Softball
Downhill Skiing

Soccer
Curling
Cross Country Skiing

Therapeutic Riding Association, North Okanagan (NOTRA)

Box 328
Vernon, BC, V1T 6M3
Phone: (250) 549-0105
E-mail: notra@mybc.ca
Website: www.notra.info

The North Okanagan Therapeutic Riding Association (N.O.T.R.A) exists to provide the experience of horseback riding to people with various conditions, mental and physical, which can be treated by having contact with a horse. They provide instruction/learning experiences regarding the care of a horse and the means to acquire the riding skills necessary to have the experience of actually riding a horse.

Vernon Disability Resource Center

Suite #107, 3402 27th Avenue
Vernon, BC V1T 1S1
Phone: (250) 545-9292
TTY: (250) 542-2193
E-mail: vdrc@shaw.ca
Website: www.vdrc.ca

Peer Support Program for Youth with Disabilities

For youth between the ages of 16 and 29, who would like to meet other individuals with disabilities who have similar interests. This is an opportunity to build on skills or share skills with others (i.e. community networking, independent choices, career paths, leadership skills). Program provides the opportunity to be encouraged and supported in a safe comfortable environment.

Monday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:30pm.

Contact Lisa Kongsdorf, Career Development Facilitator

Whitecrow Village Family Camp

Box 75
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Phone: (250) 655-1531
Fax: (250) 655-1531
E-mail: whitecrow@telus.net

FASD camps held throughout BC every summer: parents, professionals, and community members attend FASD training during the morning while children and youth participate in everyday camp activities. Everyone comes together for afternoon activities.

Social Workers and other Government Services

The Ministry of Children and Family Development is in the process of transferring many of their services for children with special needs to Community Living B.C. At printing time there is still some uncertainty about who will be responsible for certain aspects of these services, especially as they pertain to children in care.

Community Living B.C.

#300 -3100-30th Ave.
Vernon, BC V1T 2C2
Phone: (250) 549-5490
Fax: (250) 549-5636

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Community Services Manager
Integrated Youth Services
Child & Youth Mental Health
Family Group Conferencing

3007 35th Ave.
Vernon, BC V1T 2S9
Phone: (250) 558-2775
Fax: (250) 549-5458

Intake and Assessment
Family Services
Aboriginal Services
Residential Resources
Adoption
Guardianship

2809 28th St
Vernon, BC V1T 4Z5
Phone: (250) 558-2700
Fax: (250) 558-2727

Okanagan Foster Parents Association Support to the Family Care Network

The Okanagan Foster Parents Association was formed in 2002 in response to the need to restructure support services to Family Care Homes in the Okanagan. OFPA is funded by Ministry of Children and Family Development to support foster parents in the Okanagan. OFPA is consumer-driven, community based and cross-cultural.

The Okanagan Foster Parents Association

- Provides support services to caregivers in the Okanagan who have a family care home agreement with MCFD
- Develops and facilitates support groups for family caregivers in the Okanagan
- Assists MCFD in recruitment and retention of family care home caregivers
- Provides education and training for family caregivers in the Okanagan and
- Provides an avenue for identification and resolution of issues common to caregivers, in partnership with MCFD

The philosophy of the Okanagan Foster Parents Association is:

Foster Families are a key component of the Family Care Home system in British Columbia. Caregivers need a variety of support services and educational opportunities in order to meet the physical, emotional, cultural, and spiritual needs of children and youth in care. As an organization of caregivers the Okanagan Foster Parents Association recognizes the need to be flexible in meeting the ever-changing needs of caregivers, the children/youth who they care for, and their families.

Foster Parent Coordinators

Foster Parent Coordinators support all foster families who have Family Care Agreements with the Ministry of Children and Family Development office in the Okanagan - Similkameen

Foster Parent Coordinators are responsible for:

- Ongoing consultation and networking services to foster parents
- Information on Ministry policy
- Answering general practice questions about fostering
- Supporting foster parents experiencing difficult foster care situations
- Providing support/Information for foster parents going through the complaints process
- Library of Resource materials
- Provision of newsletters
- Acting as a liaison with MCFD staff on common caregiver concerns or misunderstandings
- Assisting with recruitment and training of new foster homes
- Promoting and assisting the development of caregiver support groups

In the Vernon area contact:

Noelle Typusiak
#301 -3402 27th Ave, (The People Place), Vernon B.C. V1T 1E4
phone/fax (250) 558-0939
Email: NOKsupport@okfosterparents.org

