

Fall 2010

ABC head start

Celebrating 25 years

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facebook

We are on Facebook! We invite you to join our group for updates and to connect to other members. Search: "ABC Head Start".

Look at us now! As part of our celebrations of our 25th anniversary, we have "re-branded" ourselves in readiness for our new quarter-century. As part of our new face, we have a new logo, new letterhead, and new brochures. In conjunction with our new image, we are launching our newly established web-page and newly improved information that goes with it. Please take a minute and have a look at how we have changed!



Govern a family as you would cook a small fish... very gently.
-Chinese Proverb

Executive Director's Corner

Kathy Lenihan

Welcome to the 25th Anniversary year of ABC Head Start and a new “branding” to commemorate our move into the next 25 years! On behalf of the children, parents and staff of ABC Head Start, we look forward to keeping you up-to-date on the newest happenings at our agency, as well as the many initiatives underway at any given time.

As we move into the 25th year, allow me to share a little about who we are. ABC Head Start is a registered charity. We offer classes 4 days a week to 368 children and 23 weekly parent groups in 13 locations, provided by over 130 staff and over 60 volunteers. Included in our sites is a Francophone Head Start program that offers services for those children and families who have French as their first language.

When we began our program 25 years ago, little did anyone realize at the time the growth that we would experience as we moved through the years. From an agency working with 9 families and 2 staff, we have evolved and grown to better serve our communities.

We are 25 years old and proud of how we have grown, changed and continued to move into neighbourhoods requiring our services. We are also extremely grateful and wish to thank the countless volunteers, parents, staff, community partners and most especially the thousands and thousands of children and families who have all worked side by side with us during the past 25 years to achieve success in learning and life! Onto the next 26th year!



Thank you to our sites
for the wonderful
pictures.

A Word From Our Board Chair...

Scott Cuthbert

It is time to start school and all the staff at ABC Head Start are ready for another exciting year. First off, we would like to welcome all of the new students and their families – we hope you look forward to the new and exciting challenges that this year will have to offer.

As in past messages, we urge parents to become actively involved in your child's experiences this year, as the children become exposed to the education process for the first time and to the social interaction within the classroom. As well, please take advantage of the resources that exist within your parent peer group, within ABC Head Start and within your community. The staff at ABC Head Start would be more than happy to answer your questions or to assist with

your queries. Also welcome back to the staff and volunteers of ABC Head Start! We hope that everyone enjoyed a wonderful summer. The 2010-2011 school year will present its own new & exciting opportunities and we hope that everyone is ready for the challenge!

In November, we look forward to seeing you at ABC Head Start Society's Annual General Meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend and each family is a voting member of ABC Head Start Society – it is a great opportunity to meet other parents, staff members, volunteers and board members. This meeting is to report on last year's results and the direction for the coming year.

We wish everyone a great start to the new school year!



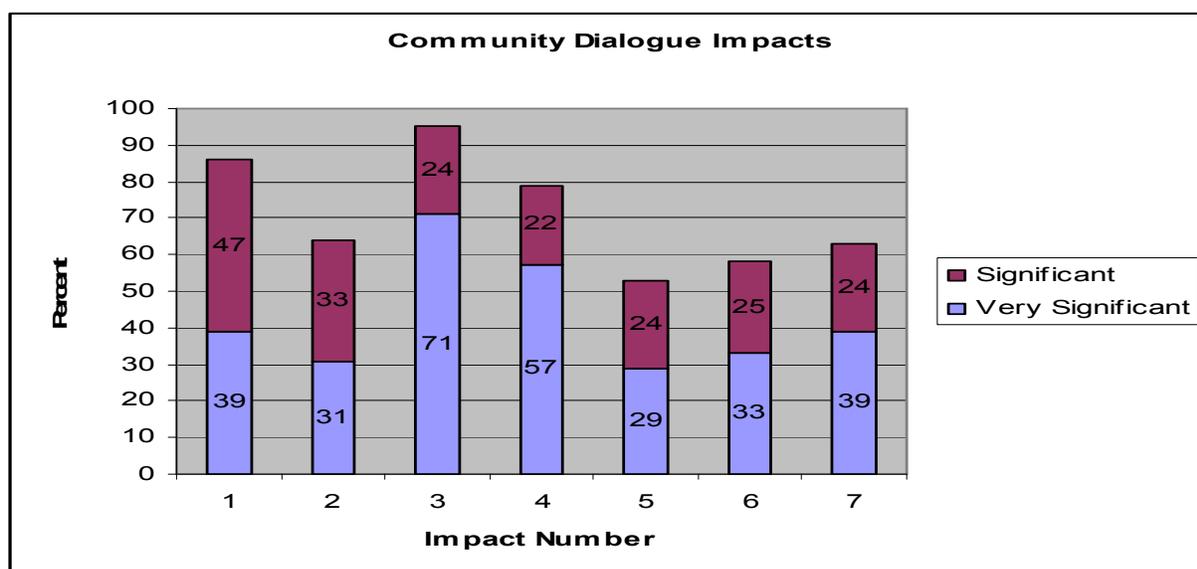
Parent Survey Highlights 2009-2010

Additionally, parents were asked to consider seven impact statements. Then rank them according to how Head Start most impacted their lives.

The top three impacts were:

- **95% of parents indicated Head Start enabled their child to be ready for Kindergarten (Impact #3)**
- **86% of parents indicated Head Start taught them how to help their child develop and learn (Impact #1)**
- **79% of parents indicated Head Start helped them connect their child with professional services (Impact #4).**

The chart below, shows the percentage of parents who indicated the impact as significant or very significant.



The order of significance for the last four impacts is listed below. The percentage indicates parents responding that the impact was either significant or very significant.

- 64% of parents indicated Head Start helped with parenting (Impact #2)
- 63% of parents indicated Head Start helped with problem solving & planning for the future (#7)
- 58% of parents indicated Head Start helped to connect with community services & health care services (#6)
- 53% of parents indicated Head Start helped making connections with new other parents & the community (#5)

Head Start has always valued the participation and involvement of families. We have also heard that more and more families want to be involved but are struggling to manage family, work, and school commitments. We want to be responsive and supportive of family's needs and the desire to be involved in the lives of their children.

In the upcoming years Head Start will have to be creative in the many ways we provide for parents to be involved. Hearing from parents is one way – a special thanks goes out to all the parents who took the time out of their day to tell us about their experience with us.

We thank you for your encouragement and support!

Volunteers

Volunteers enrich all that we do at ABC Head Start. We would not be the same without them. Each September and throughout the school year we are looking for those special people who wish to “nurture the future” by working as a Head Start volunteer. Ideally, we would like one volunteer in each classroom every single day. That means 92 volunteers are needed.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more about

becoming involved, please call the contact information. If you know of someone who you think may be interested in becoming a classroom volunteer please follow the contact information and encourage them to give us a call.

Visit our web site at www.abcheadstart.org or call Ann at 780-461-5353, annb@abcheadstart.org



Scarecrow Festival

This year's Scarecrow Festival was another success. Over 13,000 people came out to support ABC Head Start and have some Halloween fun!

We were very fortunate to have had such a tremendous amount of support from the volunteer community. Some of this year's volunteers were first timers and some have been with the event since the beginning. We couldn't have done it without them.

Some new attractions were added to the regular favorites this year. A giant slide and obstacle course, a money tunnel, along with a petting zoo added to the excitement as kids were able to bounce, race, slide and pet a pony all in one place!

We're already looking forward to next year's Festival!



Scarecrow Festival

WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES AND SUPPORT ABC HEAD START AT THE SAME TIME!

As part of the fundraising activities at the Scarecrow Festival this year we sold tickets for a fabulous raffle, first prize being a Sky Suite for 12 people, with parking passes. Of course, because of the 3 day time frame not all tickets were sold at the festival so we are continuing to sell tickets until the draw date which will be held on Monday, November 15.

PRIZE DESCRIPTIONS

- 1st Prize: Oilers Sky Suite for 12 (*donated by LaFarge*)
- includes 3 parking passes
 - game is on Saturday, November 23 against the San Jose Sharks
- 2nd Prize: Irene Klar Numbered Print (*donated by Irene Klar*)
- 41 ½" by 11"
 - matted and framed
- 3rd prize: Arts Tickets (*donated by the Citadel Theatre and Theatre Network*)
- 2 tickets to A Christmas Carol at the Citadel Theatre
 - 2 tickets to any production by theatre Network
- 4th Prize: Sports Memorabilia (*donated by the Edmonton Eskimos and United Cycle*)
- Autographed Edmonton Eskimo football
 - Autographed framed picture of Dustin Penner

If you wish to purchase or sell tickets please call Ann at the ABC Head Start office at 780 4615353 or email annb@abcheadstart.org Tickets are \$5.00.



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