



The Centre for Child Development *of the Lower Mainland*

*South Fraser's Centre of Excellence for Children's
Medical Rehabilitation & Child Youth Services*

2023-2024

SUPPORTER IMPACT SUMMARY

Fundraising by the Child Development Foundation of BC

Mission, Vision, Values

Our mission continues to be helping children with special needs reach their potential.

Our vision is that children have the best opportunities to succeed in all areas of their lives.

Our values reflect that our highest priority is the well-being, safety and success of our children.

We appreciate your commitment to supporting the children and families The Centre serves.

This is a summary of the impact your gifts to The Centre for Child Development and the Child Development Foundation of BC have had this past year.

Thank you for being a part of this story, making a difference for so many special kids in our community.



Our Approach

We are committed to using the best available practices in our fields, ensuring that our donors and funders are supporting the most impactful therapies to help our children reach their full potential.

The F-words is based on World Health Organization supported research.* This framework emphasizes each child's strengths, interests and the family's values. They remind us to focus on what children CAN do.

They highlight the importance of all the elements of a child's health and well-being, including social relationships and meaningful participation at home, in school, childcare and in the community.

**Based on research & built on the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health Framework. www.canchild.ca/f-words*

Family

- Kids live & thrive with their families
- The family is the expert on the child
- What activities do you want to do together?
- How can our team help your child participate fully in those experiences?



Friends

- Building supportive friendships & positive social relationships are important for all children
- Talk about the social connections in your child's life so our team can help you grow those relationships



Fitness

- Health is related to staying physically & mentally fit
- What makes it easy or hard for your child to become and stay active & healthy?



Fun

- Fun is an essential part of childhood
- What activities does your child enjoy most?
- What activities would your child like to try?



Function

- Function = the ability to do an activity with or without support
- Do activities without focusing on the outcome
- Talk about how your child plays and functions in daily life



Future

- Child development = keeping your child's future in view
- What are your family and child's dreams?
- What are your expectations about the future?



Highlight: 2023-2024

House Post

We want to make everyone who enters The Centre feel welcome, special and a part of our family. No matter your background, culture, challenges and abilities, you are home.

This year through the support of our partners at the Ministry of Children and Family Development, we were honoured to unveil a very special Indigenous House Post at The Centre's 140 Street facility to welcome all of our children and families.

The House Post symbolizes the eagle protecting the children who find help here at The Centre and supports the work we do. We're grateful for its protection and nurturing of our children, families & staff on our joint journey of exploring what's possible for each child.



We respectfully acknowledge the ǵʷa:ǵǵǵǵ (Kwantlen), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), ǵíćǵ (Katzie), Semyome (Semihamoo), sceʷaθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen First Nation), qíqéyt (Qayqayt) and kʷikʷəǵǵəm (Kwkwetlem) peoples on whose traditional territories The Centre for Child Development stands, and whose historical relationship with the land continues to this day. For more information: [*In Plain Sight Summary Report*](#).

Our Commitment

Each child is one of a kind. They may speak any of the 104 plus languages spoken in the South Fraser region. They may be an immigrant or a refugee. They may be Indigenous. They may require an interpreter or the comfort of an Elder. We strive to support children and families with respect, dignity, empathy, and in a safe, trauma-informed space.

We commit to **honouring each child and their family** in every configuration, respecting their deeply held heritage, life experience, community, culture, and beliefs. They want to know that they enter a safe space. They need to know that their family is most welcome here. Each child has a unique story to tell of where they come from and what they need. We are committed to listen, learn, and respond to each child and their family with utmost care.

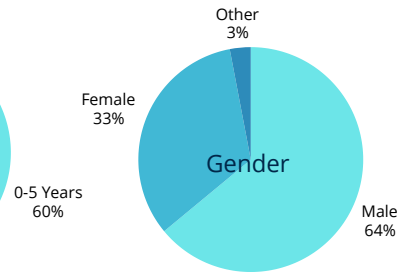
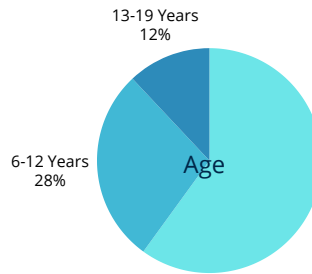
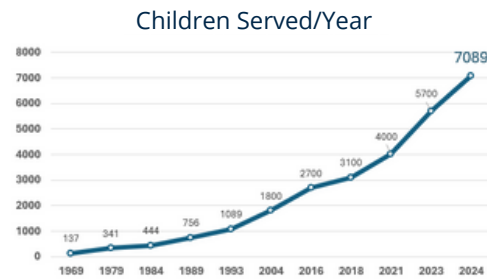
Who We Serve: 2023-2024

Our donors & funders are critical partners, helping us provide over 16 services to **more than 7,000** children (0-19 years old) and their families in **over 350 locations** throughout Surrey, Delta, White Rock, and Langley.

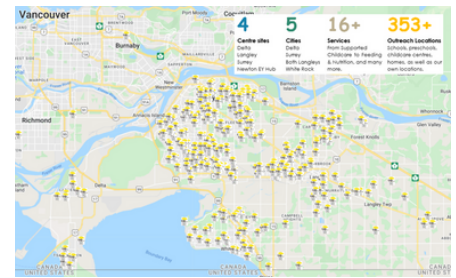
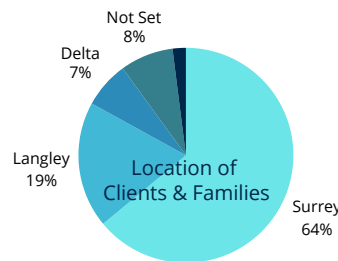
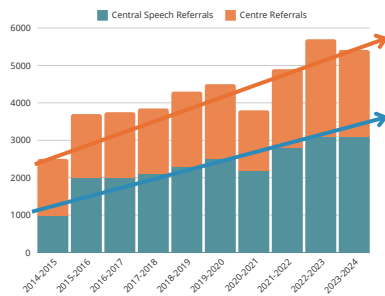
Thank you for helping make this possible!

We served **over 7,000** children and youth in 2023-2024, including **over 325** at Sophie's Place!

We received **almost the same** number of new service requests!

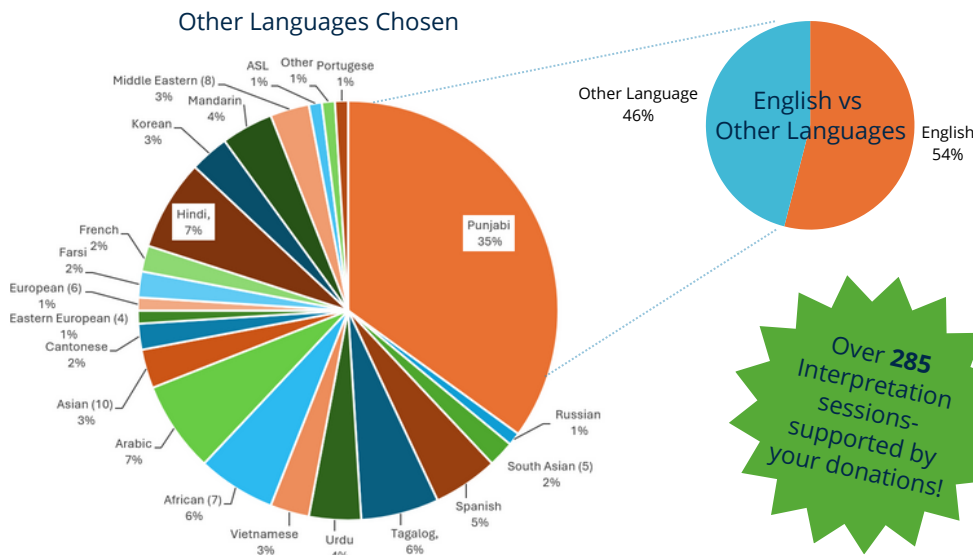


Total Referrals Processed/Year



Ours is a very diverse region and the needs of our children and families are often complicated with other challenges such as not speaking English. Our donor-supported interpretation services help make receiving services more accessible and easier to understand.

Thank you for helping fund these services- you help make new families feel welcome and supported.



Over **285** Interpretation sessions supported by your donations!

"Use of Hindi language is very helpful, and staff helps a lot."
 "I have learned] a lot of different strategies for handling kids behaviours, especially thankful to [staff] for providing a lot of strategies and all support."
 "I tell many families that I am learning a lot here."
 "I will suggest to have more groups of these types, specially in the other languages."
 "It was my first time, I felt so nice and will love to attend more."
 - Parents' written comments from a drop-in parent support group facilitated in Hindi and Punjabi, translated.

Our Services

The Centre is grateful to our funders in the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and all our donors, sponsors and supporters for their unwavering commitment to help so many children and families in our community.

Several specialized programs that enhance the impact of our key services are largely supported by your donations, like our [Recreation Therapy](#), [Feeding & Nutrition Team](#), [Casting & Splinting Program](#), and [Sophie's Place](#).

Thank you for helping make a *real difference* in the lives of our children!

- We empower children and families, identifying and supporting each child's unique strengths and abilities.
- We believe a child's family is an integral part of the therapy team, and our focus is training and support of caregivers so they can help their child learn and develop.
- We take a play-based approach, with activities that are fun and purposeful, maximizing function.

Child and Youth Services

Psychology & Social Work

We provide services to children with a developmental disability and a significant behavioural and/or mental health condition (behavioural problems, FASD, neurodevelopmental disorders).

We help with:

- anxiety, depression, behavioural problems
- assist with achieving developmental tasks complicated by disability (sleep, toileting)
- applying for funding, navigating healthcare system

948
kids/youth

12,154
service
hours

Early Years Program

A program open to all families with children ages 0-6 years old (especially from immigrant & at-risk communities).

We help with:

- connecting families with appropriate community services (childcare, housing, food banks)

582
kids/youth

8,468
service
hours



Supported Child Development & Childcare

Supported Child Development

Our team supports children living in Surrey with a developmental delay or disability and who may require extra support, focusing on early intervention to enable full participation in inclusive community childcare programs.

Our guiding principles are:

- inclusion
- collaborative individual planning
- child development
- community based
- cultural respect

1,276
kids/youth

218,081
service
hours



Childcare and Preschool

Our Childcare and Preschool programs are licensed, inclusive, play-based programs. The structured environment and positive teacher-child interactions promote a learning environment that recognizes the wide range of learning needs and the variety of all children's learning styles.

Our inclusive and accessible facilities enable children with and without support needs to fully participate at their own unique level of development. Children of all mobility levels enjoy our fully accessible playground, empowering them to experience the benefits of outdoor play and exploration.

Through teacher-supervised play, children gain:

- social skills, emotional growth
- cognitive development, language and communication skills
- fine motor development & gross motor skills
- self-help skills

55 children
Preschool

60 children
Childcare
Under 3 and
3-5



Medical Rehabilitation

Communication Therapy

Our speech-language pathologists (SLPs) work with families and caregivers to help children with physical or developmental delays to maximize their communication skills and ability to participate in family life, preschool and peer relationships.

We help with:

- verbal & non-verbal communication
- social interaction & play skills
- strategies to promote language development

1,331
kids/youth

8,808
service
hours



Occupational Therapy

Our occupational therapists work with families and caregivers to help children and youth maximize their fine motor control and ability to function and participate at home, school, and in their community.

We help with:

- hand function
- self-care skills (dressing, feeding)
- pre-writing, writing, scissor skills
- equipment selection/adaptation
- play skills

1,618
kids/youth

19,636
service
hours

Physiotherapy

Our physiotherapists work with families and caregivers to help children and youth maximize their gross motor potential to be as independent as possible at home, school, and in their community.

We help with:

- reaching gross motor development milestones
- balance, walking, running
- coordination skills
- muscle weakness, decreased flexibility
- equipment selection/adaptation

1,346
kids/youth

15,664
service
hours



Donor Supported Services

These life-changing programs are supported by **your** donations!

The Centre for Child Development has developed specialized and unique programs to address support gaps for the children we serve. Many of these programs are vital to their development, time-sensitive, and life-changing; without your gifts, these families wouldn't have access to these essential supports.

We are very grateful for **donors like you** who recognize the importance of having the following services available to children in our community.

Casting & Splinting

Our team makes custom casts and splints to correctively maintain arms/legs in a certain position and/or to help children overcome activity limitations, such as difficulties with standing and walking.

As children grow and change, new customized casts/splints are made to support their development.

This service is provided free of charge (average cast/splint can cost approximately \$700-800).



85
kids/youth

629
service
hours

Equipment Team

We customize children's mobility devices (wheelchairs, strollers, power-chairs) to make the most of each child's unique mobility needs so they can fully participate at home, school, and in the community.

Our Equipment team works in consultation with the child, their family, therapists, physicians, hospitals, and equipment suppliers to meet the child's functional positioning/mobility needs and goals, and monitor for growth and physical changes.



109
kids/youth

857
service
hours

Feeding & Nutrition

Feeding & Nutrition is an intensive program for some of the most medically involved and youngest children whose feeding safety/nutrition is compromised due to developmental disabilities.

Our multi-disciplinary and specialized team provides feeding assessments, recommendations on positioning, equipment and food, and works with children to develop skills for safe swallowing.

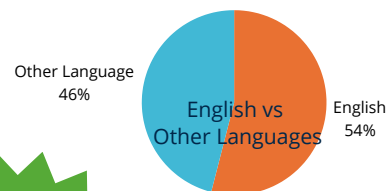
147
kids/youth

2,085
service
hours



Interpretation Services

Ours is a very diverse community and almost half of our families indicate their primary language isn't English. Communicating in their primary language can help families better understand therapy sessions, and have a deeper connection with their child's development. Thanks to our very generous donors, we arrange interpretation services for sessions without charge to our families who need it.



Over 285 Interpretation sessions supported by your donations!

Recreation Services

Our unique therapeutic pool is equipped to enable easy access for all ability levels. Children are helped with a range of abilities, from clumsiness or coordination challenges and gross motor delays to cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscle disease or orthopedic conditions.

Collaborative recreation therapy programs are designed to help children develop and integrate gross motor skills, independence, and communication skills. The pool's warmer water makes therapy easier, relaxing muscles while helping build muscle strength and improve balance. A smaller pool is also more accessible for those with sensory sensitivities (autism).



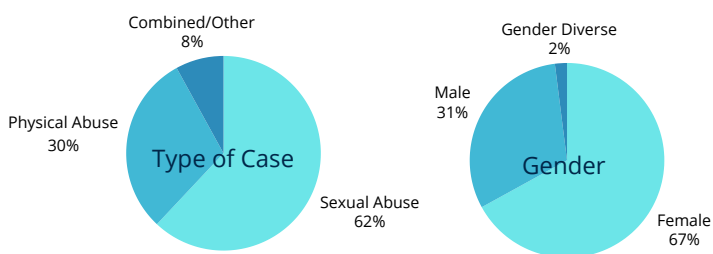
Sophie's Place

Sophie's Place provides compassionate and nurturing services to victims of physical and/or sexual abuse (up to age 15) in a safe and compassionate environment, reducing trauma while fostering trust, healing, and resilience.

Our multi-disciplinary, collaborative team of specialized professionals (police, victim services workers, and social workers) focuses on minimizing trauma in an environment that's supportive, friendly and focused on the children and youth we serve.

As the Lower Mainland's first Child & Youth Advocacy Centre, we are the only one housed in a child development centre. This neutral setting eliminates the stress of giving a statement in an adult facility and protects children's safety and privacy.

The integrative nature of Sophie's Place also reduces trauma and stress for families- they don't need to struggle with navigating our systems, everyone they need is in one place.



Message from **our Chair & CEO**

The Centre: going above and beyond to help children and their families since 1953

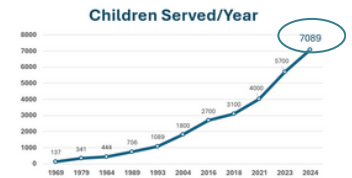
“The Centre’s overarching story since 1953 is going above and beyond, innovating to help children and their families through direct services and fostering inclusion.

The Centre for Child Development is now serving a HUNDRED TIMES as many children as 70 years ago. We have grown from serving hundreds to **over 7,000** children with special needs last year! But the need for our services is continually increasing. We received nearly 7,000 new service requests last year!

Over the past 70 years we have developed unique services that are accessible and welcoming for all children and families. Our “one stop shop” reduces barriers and develops creative, coordinated, collaborative and integrated services.

We have:

- A feeding and nutrition team that supports some of our youngest and most medically fragile children so they can survive and thrive
- Free custom therapeutic casts and splints which we fabricate to reduce financial burdens on our families
- An equipment team that tailors seating and mobility solutions to enhance children’s equitable participation with their peers
- Supportive and Inclusive childcare settings for children with disabilities
- Free interpreter services for all children and families to ensure access to all – a valuable service in a region where *more than 40% speak a language other than English* at home
- Sensory friendly spaces including our hydrotherapy pool, treatment/therapy spaces, playroom and reception
- Barrier free access and connection for vulnerable young children and families to the care they need through our Early Years Program’s skilled navigators
- Early adoption of innovations in service delivery to support as many children as possible and maximize our impact through a blend of:
 - virtual sessions
 - in person sessions
 - clinic days for children who need short term support before transitioning into kindergarten
 - groups, parental support and education sessions including drop-in groups for families whose first language is not English



Every child we serve has their own unique journey. Our highly qualified, specialized and deeply caring medical rehabilitation professionals are proud to support that journey. We do that in partnership with their family, extended family, caregivers, and friends within the richness of their culture, language and heritage.

We are grateful for the confidence and trust of our funders and community partners who dream big and work hard with us to support even more children and families. ”



Mary Martin
Centre Board Chair



Gerard Bremault, MSW, RSW
Chief Executive Officer

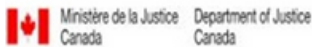
Thank You

The Centre for Child Development's mission is to help children with special needs reach their potential.

For The Centre, this means helping as many children as we possibly can by expanding our programs, increasing our staff and being innovative with how we deliver services.

The need is great and continues to increase. Thank you for your amazing support, helping the children and families we serve explore their potential and say "Yes, I can!"

We are very grateful for the ongoing and very generous support of our government partners, families, Board Directors, volunteers, and dedicated staff.



And, of course, many thanks go to our event attendees, corporate supporters, and our very generous donors. You make a huge difference in the lives of the children and families we serve- THANK YOU!!



More information about The Centre for Child Development and our services: www.the-centre.org
Support our life-changing work: www.the-centre.org/donate