



EARLY YEARS FAMILY NAVIGATOR



Transitions



Collective Responsibility



Highlights

The Early Years Family Navigator offers drop-in sessions: providing opportunities for families to engage in child-led activities, access community resources, and receive parenting education and support while navigating systems like health and social services. Additionally, offering parent participation programs like Parent-Child Mother Goose, allowing parents and children to bond and learn together through rhymes, songs, and stories.

Coffee and Connect Drop-ins are hosted at Robertson, Vedder, and Central Elementary Schools. These programs serve an average of 15 families per site, providing an opportunity for adults to connect with one another, receive information about upcoming Early Years Programs, and connect with community resources. This drop-in program also provides low barrier access to Fraser Health's Immunization clinics and children's dental screenings.

Community Collaboration The family navigator collaborates with community agencies such as Chilliwack Community Services, CHMH, MCFD, FVCDC, ASCD, Ruth and Naomi's Transition House, Ann Davis Transition Society, Wilma's Transition House, and Fraser Health to bridge services for families in an outreach capacity.

Kindergarten Transition The family navigator is able to meet with families who have barriers with registration, such as proof of residence, missing birth certificates, access to technology and to answer general questions about the transition to kindergarten. The Early Years Team also meets with programs like Sardis Doorway and Sq'ewqéyl S'iwesá:ylhem Childcare Centre to host Kindergarten information/registration events.

Successes Our GROWING school family drop-in programs provide services and programs in a welcoming, nurturing, and respectful environment. Since October; 34 families have directly received support and resources from the Family Navigator and over 100 families have enjoyed drop-in programs! Families appreciate the sense of community and belonging these locations provide. One third of our families are New to Canada and are looking for places to build community networks and healthy relationships with other families. Having our drop-ins throughout the community has reduced transportation barriers for families and provided site specific resources.

I love taking my daughters to coffee and connect. My oldest daughter looks forward to it and asks about it constantly. It's been a great way to get her familiar with the school & meet new friends through play. It's also great to have a chance to connect with other parents. I'm so impressed with all the activities! Laura and Amber do such a fantastic job and it's made a positive impact on my family and being able to bond with them through these activities. Thank you!
- Jade Turko

Coffee and connect was a great way to meet other moms and share some stories. Being pregnant with my 3rd, I felt super supported coming to this group by Amber and Laura. My daughter was excited every week to see "the mother goose ladies.". Coffee and connect is a great way to get some adult time, and the kids get some playtime with other kids. It's a win-win
-Christiane

