



CANUCKS FAMILY EDUCATION CENTRE

What is CFEC's approach to learning?

- CFEC is a school and community based family education centre that works in partnership with existing service providers to create meaningful opportunities for children, youth and adults to learn together.
- Our programs address school transitions; they are barrier-free, with universal access and we welcome participants of all literacy levels and language ability.
- When we work with existing service providers we maximize on human, financial and knowledge resources, as well as establish important connections between the families, the school and the broader community.
- One of our key roles is to coordinate and create learning opportunities for parents who for many reasons have been unable to do so on their own. We act as a conduit or broker of sorts to bridge to other service providers that will support them in achieving their goals.
- We provide personalized learning and work with parents and children to build on their knowledge and skills.

Who do we work with – our target participants?

- We work with parents and extended family members who are interested in improving their literacy and parenting skills. This includes participants whose first language is English, new immigrants and refugee claimants. We provide a variety of early learning experiences for the children in their care (Britannia StrongStart and PIE Early Learning).

Why do we do this work?

- We address the gaps in services that stop parents and families from succeeding.
- Children don't live alone – they live with adults. If the primary caregivers (parents, aunts, grandparents) of these children do not have strong literacy and parenting skills they will not be able to help their children have success in school and in life.

Why do parents come to CFEC?

- Parents come to CFEC for different reasons. They are looking for programs that offer one stop support that includes early learning opportunities for their children and ESL or upgrading for themselves.
- They tell us that they stay with us because we make our classes **accessible** (barrier-free, with a convenient location and time), **inviting** (a comfortable space with welcoming staff and fellow parents to connect with to offset the isolation and loneliness many of them feel on a daily basis), and **safe** (where they can share some of their frustrations and challenges without being judged, where mutual respect is practiced, and where they know that their children are safe and learning too).

What else does CFEC do?

- We provide opportunities for volunteers and practicum students from UBC, SFU and Langara to earn credit towards their diploma's and/or degrees.
- We also conduct on going research and in 2005-08 we under took a 3-year research project to look at the impact our PIE program had on the parents and service providers we work with.
- We provide opportunities for leadership development within the parent groups and where possible we have hired parents to deliver aspects of our program delivery.

Our Locations:

VANCOUVER

The Canucks Family Education Centre (CFEC) is a partnership between Britannia Community Services Centre, the Canucks for Kids Fund, the Vancouver Canucks, The Vancouver Sun Raise-a-Reader program and 40 program partners. The Centre opened October 3, 2002.

The Canucks Family Education Centre Is located at Britannia Community Services Centre - a 17-acre site in East Vancouver, which services the inner-city communities of Grandview-Woodland and Strathcona. With a population of about 40,000, it is an area afflicted with a disproportionate share of social and economic challenges. The area is among the city's worst in poverty levels, low educational attainment, high incidence of crime, problems related to substance abuse, numbers of dysfunctional individuals and families, and significant populations of disconnected youth and isolated seniors. This area is known as Canada's poorest postal code. It is also an area whose population is made up of large numbers of Aboriginal families and families whose first language is not English or French, who for decades have been at a disadvantage in finding equal footing in terms of education and employment.

SOUTH BURNABY

There are approximately 3,000 Afghans in Burnaby, Coquitlam and Surrey. The highest numbers are living in Burnaby. Most families have been in the Lower Mainland less than 2 years and many less than 6 months. Refugees from Afghanistan have been one of the top sources of convention refugees to BC. Most of the Afghans have lived several years in other countries before resettling in Canada. The families are large – between 4-8 children and almost all are presently on either federal or provincial income assistance.

The Burnaby School District operates 40 elementary schools, eight secondary schools and several comprehensive programs including Adult & Continuing Education, International Education, French Immersion, Burnaby Online, Soccer Academy, Hockey Academy and Learning Through the Arts. Served by approximately 2,000 staff, the Burnaby School District enrolls approximately 23,500 full-time equivalent students, and provides programs and services to over 15,000 adult learners.

Burnaby schools reflect the increasingly global nature of the Burnaby community, with over 4,000 students enrolled in English as a Second Language programs. A recent survey of languages spoken in Burnaby homes identified more than 70 languages other than English were spoken in the homes of Burnaby students. Such diversity has brought rich cultural benefits to Burnaby's communities and schools. The district continues to promote the ideals of multi-culturalism through its established policies and numerous school-based initiatives, which promote cultural respect and understanding.

(Sourced from the Burnaby School district website)