

THE VOICE



Happy Earth Day!

Housekeeping

1. Thursday, May 18th, from 7p.m.-8p.m. : Little Buddies Zoom OT info session
2. Friday, May, 19th and Monday May, 22nd: Statutory Holiday, centre closed.
3. Thursday, May 25th: Spirit Day!
4. Saturday, May, 27th: 60th Anniversary Celebration, from 1 PM- 5 PM



A Message From our Executive Director

Dear families, friends, and staff,

It's hard to believe we are in the final stretch of the school year! April was a busy month.

Our Tunes and Tots started up again on April 20th with an excellent turnout. We also had a visit from Capital Salvage, who talked to our centre-based classes about the importance of recycling. The children learned about how they can make a difference in the world by reducing waste and reusing materials.

Our May theme is Community Helpers, and the children will be exploring how we are all part of a community and how different people have different jobs to help their community. We will also be learning about how some jobs have special uniforms, vehicles, and tools.

Furthermore, May is Speech and Hearing Month, a month dedicated to raising awareness about communication health. As you all know, Children's Hearing and Speech Centre is committed to helping children with hearing loss. We believe that it is essential for every child with hearing loss, whose family has chosen the LSL modality to have access to communication tools and resources that will enable them to listen and speak effectively.

This year, we are also thrilled to celebrate our 60th anniversary as a Children's Hearing and Speech Centre. We are proud of the work we have accomplished in the past six decades, and we are grateful to our families, friends, and staff for their continuous support. To mark this milestone, we are holding a big celebration on Saturday, May 27th, 2023, and we would be delighted to see all of you there! [Click here to RSVP](#) or email info@childrenshearing.ca.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to a fun-filled month of learning and celebration.

Warm regards,



Dawn McKenna
Executive Director



Smooth Transitions: Helping Your Child Move on to the Next Phase of Learning

by Sarah Chodos (Teacher of The Deaf)

As we approach the end of the school year here at CHSC, many of our families and children are getting ready for a big change. For some, it's time for their little ones to move up from First Words into the Early Learning Program (ELP), from our ELP for 3-year-olds to the 4-year-old ELP, or from our ELP to our center-based kindergarten. And for other children, it's time to say farewell to CHSC altogether as they move on to their community schools.

We understand that transitions can be difficult, both for the children and their families. It's not easy to leave the people and places that have become familiar and comforting over the year(s). That's why we're committed to making this process as smooth and stress-free as possible.

To facilitate these changes, we have implemented several procedures. For example, families of children in our First Words program have been meeting with Sarah, the Team Lead of the centre based program, to build a relationship and get answers to their questions. We will be hosting our Step-Up Day on June 15th, which provides an opportunity for families in our First Words as well as our ELP program to visit their new classroom, meet the centre-based staff, and become familiar with their environment.

We have also created a new Centre Based Handbook that is filled with useful information that families can use to help prepare their children for the next phase of their learning journey. The handbook includes information on what to expect during these transitions, as well as resources and contacts for families who may need extra support. This will be distributed with the registration packages.

For those children who are leaving CHSC and going off to a community school, our team of professionals work closely with their new school to make sure the transition is as seamless as possible. Our professional staff meet with the new school to discuss the child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and identify areas where extra support may be needed.

We know that change can be scary, especially when it comes to our children. That's why we want you to know that we're here to help. Our team is always available to answer your questions and address your concerns. We understand that this is a big step, but we're confident that together, we can make it a positive and exciting experience for everyone involved.



CHSC Celebrates 60 Years of Empowering Children With Hearing Loss!

by Sarah Chodos, Lisa Labere, and Janet Weech

As CHSC approaches its 60th anniversary, we reflect on the countless children and families we have had the privilege to serve over the years. As a leading organization in the field of listening and spoken language therapy for children, we are proud to have reached this milestone.

At the heart of our Centre is our commitment to providing specialized listening and spoken language services to children and their families. We believe that every family has the right to choose a communication modality that works best for them and their child. For families who have chosen listening and spoken language, our goal is to help their child develop their communication and listening skills to be successful in the hearing world. Our team of trained professionals work closely with each child and their family to develop personalized education plans that address their unique needs and goals.

Children with hearing loss can face many challenges, but fortunately, most families in British Columbia receive a newborn hearing screening. If a hearing loss is identified, families may choose ASL, hearing aids, or cochlear implants. At CHSC, we assist children of all ages in developing spoken language, speech, and hearing skills. Hearing loss is complicated and can bring with it additional learning and developmental challenges:

"Children with hearing loss may struggle with grammar due to difficulties hearing quiet word endings and pronouns. We utilize listening strategies, repetition, and hands-on learning to promote natural and enjoyable language development. Additionally, children with hearing loss may need help with social skills, as it can be challenging to interact in noisy environments. We support children with modeling and encouraging natural practice to foster social and pragmatic skills." (Sarah Chodos, TDHH)



CHSC Celebrates 60 Years of Empowering Children With Hearing Loss! Cont'd...

by Sarah Chodos, Lisa Labere, and Janet Weech

One of the things that sets us apart is our focus on early intervention. Research has shown that the earlier a child receives therapy for speech or hearing challenges, the better their outcomes tend to be. We are dedicated to helping children as early as possible to achieve the best possible results. Program staff can attest to the benefits of early intervention:

“I have seen the impact of our early intervention programs on the lives of children and families. The transformation of one particular boy comes to mind. When he first entered our Centre, he was timid, silent, and watchful. But with the small class size and the amount of support and attention he received from our SLP, Audiologist, ECEs, and Teacher of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, he blossomed into a talkative, confident, and expressive boy. When he transitioned to another school for grade one, he was prepared academically and emotionally. He could insert his own aids, discuss his amplification, and recognize when the FM was useful. He developed the confidence and advocacy skills to speak up and express himself. His transformation was amazing, and it is just one example of the impact we can make in the lives of children and families.”
(Janet Weech, TDHH)

“I have worked at the centre for 10 years and have learned and been inspired by my colleagues as a professional and as a mother to a child with hearing loss. This has been my place of work but also my place to land if needed. The centre has been here since the 60's and has grown and adapted with the needs of the community. A listening and spoken language centre - the only one in BC. Where would these children be without this amazing resource? How would they learn and how would they advocate for themselves? I'm grateful to the centre and the amazing staff who can take each day, each challenge, and each request and help to guide each individual child to her or his success.” (Lisa L., ECE)

We are proud of the work we do at CHSC and the positive impact we have on the lives of children and families. As we celebrate our 60th anniversary, we are excited about the future of CHSC and the continued growth and expansion of our programs.

“The future of CHSC looks bright! All our programs are growing tremendously. Next year we will have a kindergarten class and 4 Early Learning Program (ELP) classes within the centre. We have our hearing loss children integrated with the typical hearing children. This model has proven to be beneficial for both groups of children. We are so pleased that the ELP program is part of the \$10 a day childcare plan because we can now offer the same incredible quality of service at a price affordable to more families. I can't wait to see what the next 30 years has in store!” (Sarah Chodos, TDHH)



Transforming Scrap to Treasure: Kids Learn about Recycling from Capital Salvage

The team from Capital Salvage Metal Recycling visited the centre on Tuesday, April 25th to talk about the recycling work their company does and how metals can be repurposed into new things. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn about the importance of recycling and sustainability in a fun and interactive way.

Jen and Val from Capital Salvage gave a presentation to the children and shared how their work helps to protect the environment by reducing waste and reusing materials. They explained that many items that are considered scrap or junk can actually be transformed into new products, such as toys, bicycles, and even cars.



The children were fascinated by the process and eagerly asked questions about how the metal is collected and sorted. They also learned how recycling can help to conserve natural resources and reduce pollution, making the Earth a cleaner and healthier place to live.

The timing of this visit was particularly special, as it coincided with Earth Day and the Centre's April theme of Spring and how plants and animals come to life during this season. The children were encouraged to think about how recycling fits into this theme and how we can all work together to protect the planet and make it a more beautiful and sustainable place.

As the session came to an end, the children were given the opportunity to get hands-on with some of the metal items that the team had brought with them. They were amazed to see how something old and discarded could be turned into something new and exciting. The team from Capital Salvage left the children feeling inspired and motivated to do their part in making the world a better place.

In addition to their presentation Capital Salvage made a generous donation to the centre. Thank you Capital Salvage for the fun and insightful presentation and for your support!



Gracie's Ears

Written by Ashley Machovec, Illustrated by Megan Jansen

Mila Gets Her Super Ears is a heartwarming children's book that takes readers on a journey of a young girl with hearing loss and her family as they navigate the world of hearing aids and cochlear implants. This book is a great resource for families who are going through similar experiences as it touches on the initial diagnosis, the procedures, and the multiple therapies required for children with hearing loss in a positive and relatable way.

As May is Speech and Hearing Month, this book aligns perfectly with the theme of raising awareness about communication disorders and promoting better hearing health. Mila's story highlights the importance of early screening and intervention, which is crucial for children with hearing loss to reach their full potential.

The characters in the book are depicted as happy and curious, and the colorful illustrations make it a joy to read. Overall, Mila Gets Her Super Ears is an inspiring and educational read for children and adults alike, reminding us that with the support of family and medical professionals, children with hearing loss can achieve anything they set their minds to.



Virtual Parent Education Night: Little Buddies Pediatric Therapy Info Session

Keith Landherr and Alysha Paiaro from Little Buddies Pediatric Therapy will be joining us to talk about the role of Occupational Therapy for young children. They will describe the relationship-based approach they use while empowering children to learn foundational self-regulation, attention and engagement skills. Helpful strategies for parents to use will be included along with information about accessing occupational therapy services for their child.

Date: Thursday, May 18th

Time: 7p.m.- 8p.m.

Where: Zoom, link will be sent after signup

Please RSVP to lgoodwin@childrenshearing.ca



Little Buddies
Pediatric Therapy



Join Us on Saturday, May 27, 2023!



Children's Hearing
& Speech Centre of BC

Come Celebrate 60 Years of Excellence With Us!

You have helped make CHSC what it is today. Please join us in celebration of our 60th anniversary for an afternoon of delicious food, games, music, laughter, and **LOTS** of catching up!

Saturday, May 27, 2023 | 1 PM - 5 PM
3575 Kaslo Street | **Must RSVP** to 604-437-0255 or
info@childrenshearing.ca by Friday, May 5, 2023

[Click TO RSVP](#)