

## KIND WORDS

"FED is literally a lifesaver. They help to ensure that kids are referred to critical services through their assessments. FED's professional eyes provide all involved with a comprehensive plan whereby referrals are completed on time. Their involvement with case planning is rudimentary to the child's future."

— **Ministry of Children and Family Development Social Worker**



"The ongoing monitoring and oversight helps to objectively confirm what we as foster caregivers often "sense" intuitively. By objectively measuring and quantifying, we are able to access services more readily for children in our care. FED also validates our concerns, provides supportive literature, and/or suggestions. In my case, FED was instrumental in accessing a referral that a child in our care was in need of. It ensures that kids in care don't fall through the cracks when it comes to their developmental needs in all spheres. FED is a supportive base and a resource for foster caregiver families. Thank you for all that you do."

— **FED Supported Foster Caregiver**

The Fostering Early Development program provides support for children in foster care through early identification screenings and provision of appropriate developmental services.



Developmental  
Disabilities Association



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## FOSTERING EARLY DEVELOPMENT



Developmental  
Disabilities Association

Children in foster care are particularly vulnerable to developmental problems compared to children in the general population.

Findings from the first two years of the Fostering Early Development (FED) Program show that 44% of children in foster care are delayed in their general and social-emotional development.

Our strength-based approach towards early identification and provision of appropriate developmental services leads to better outcomes for foster children.



## OUR METHODS

Developmental screening for children from birth to their sixth birthday using:

- Ages & Stages Questionnaire-3 (ASQ-3)
- Ages & Stages Questionnaire-Social Emotional (ASQ-SE:2)

In addition, FED provides training and support to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)/ Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society (VACFSS), and to foster caregivers and staff.

## OUR BELIEF

That all children in care or placed in out-of-care options should have access to opportunities and environments that promote optimal physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and spiritual development.

## FED PROCESS

A child enters our FED program through a referral from MCFD or VACFSS and their caregiver will be matched to one of our consultants. The child will receive an initial developmental screening and be referred to any appropriate early intervention services when needed. Throughout their time with FED, children will receive ongoing consultation and screening. Once a child reaches age 6 or is no longer in the care of the ministry, they are officially graduated from the FED program.

### Referral

From MCFD/VACFSS

### Foster Family Matched

With consultant

### Initial

Child Development Screening

### Referral(s) to Specialist

Ongoing consultations and screenings  
Speech & Language  
Infant Development  
Hearing & Vision  
Occupational Therapy  
Public Health/Primary Care Provider  
ECE Programs

### Program Graduation

At age 6 or return to family

## OUR OBJECTIVES

- To increase the number of developmental screenings for vulnerable children
- Enhance the health monitoring (vision, hearing, dental and immunization) for vulnerable children
- Increase knowledge and skills regarding development for MCFD/VACFSS caregivers and staff
- Increase referrals and linkages to appropriate early intervention services



## RESOURCES & TRAINING

FED provides support to foster caregivers and social workers through courses, support groups, and private consultations. We provide:

- Monthly learning and support at our Safe Babies and FED Foster Caregiver Training and Support Group.
- A two-day intensive – approximately three times a year. This is for social workers and new foster caregivers and includes information on attachment, how trauma affects brain development, how to use the ASQs, and how to encourage optimal development.
- Ongoing Circle of Security – Parenting groups for foster caregivers to learn about the emotional needs of children and how to best support their child's emotional needs.

Please reach out to your FED consultant to learn more and register for these resources.