

Bow Valley Early Childhood Development Coalition: FAQ's

Vision:

Thriving families, invested communities.

Mission:

The Bow Valley ECD Coalition consists of service providers, community partners, parents and businesses committed to the creation of a child and family friendly community. By investing in the critical years, 0-6, the health of the whole community is strengthened.



**Bow Valley Early Childhood
Development Coalition**

Bow Valley Early Childhood Development Coalition: FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)

What are Early Childhood Coalitions of Alberta (ECCA)?

Coalitions are groups of people working together to try to improve the lives of young children and families and to help children reach their optimal development potential. Currently, there are nearly 100 coalitions in Alberta. Coalitions can apply for annual provincial grant funding through the Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA).

What is the Vision of the Coalitions?

Each coalition has its own unique vision.

The Bow Valley Coalition started meeting in 2008, and the current BVECDC Vision is:

Thriving families, invested communities.

Communities served by the BVECD Coalition?

- Lake Louise, Banff, Canmore and Exshaw

Who can be a Member?

Anyone with an expressed interest in improving the lives of children and their families. Members are service providers, grandparents, business owners, public health nurses, librarians, parents, nannies, childcare workers, neighbors, students, teachers and other stakeholders. Everyone is welcome around the coalition table and is valued for their knowledge and understanding of the challenges and solutions in our communities.

What does the BVECDC do?

A plan called the Community Coalition Action Plan (CCAP) is drafted annually with input from each member of the coalition. This CCAP is effectively a work plan that outlines and guides the coalition activities each year. The CCAP is submitted to Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta as part of the application in December for the coalition's operating grant (\$22 500). The work of the coalition falls under four priority areas:

- Knowledge Mobilization and Communication
- Community Engagement
- Collaborative Planning and Partnerships
- Coalition Development

In 2017 the BVECDC CCAP has included the following:

1. Engaging Parents with key messages about reading, playing, and supporting early brain development ie. I am postcards... I'm ready!
2. Engaging professionals in working with new EDI Results that will come out soon.
3. Hosting Parent Café Conversations
4. Hosting "Noodle Do" programs
5. Hosting professional development workshops
6. Continuing to create the BV Young Children's Calendar
7. Hosting Spring and Fall "Early Years" Fairs

What is the Early Development Instrument (EDI)?

The EDI is a standardized tool that measures the development of populations of five-year-old children. Kindergarten teachers fill out questionnaires on the development of each child in their classroom. The questionnaires are made up of 103 questions on children's social, emotional, physical and intellectual development. The questions are based upon age-appropriate indicators of development, such as being able to hold a pencil to climbing stairs independently and following simple instructions. The results are then grouped together to provide population-based information for a snapshot in time, much like a census. Results are not for reported individual children.

The five domains in the EDI are:

1. Physical health and well-being

- fine and gross motor skills (e.g. can hold a pen, crayons or brush, able to climb stairs)
- independence in looking after own needs (e.g. able to go to the washroom independently most of the time)
- physically prepared for school (e.g. dressed appropriately, well-nourished and rested)
- able to sustain energy levels throughout the school day

2. Social competence

- plays and gets along with other children
- able to follow rules and instructions
- able to follow routines
- accepts responsibility for actions
- shows respect for others

3. Emotional maturity

- able to deal with feelings at an age-appropriate level
- able to separate from parent/guardian
- not too fearful, not too impulsive
- able to focus

4. Language and Cognitive Development

These relate to early academic skills, including:

- an interest in reading, writing and language-related activities
- age-appropriate reading, writing and counting skills
- recognition of shapes, sizes and colours
- can easily remember things

5. Communication skills and general knowledge

These relate to general communications skills and knowledge, including:

- ability to communicate needs and wants in socially appropriate ways
- ability to tell stories
- can say words clearly
- age-appropriate knowledge about life and the world
- ability to take part in imaginative play

How does the coalition use the EDI data?

The EDI data informs the work of the coalition. It guides where we place our efforts. It is also a powerful engagement tool and a call to action for our communities.

How can I participate? What can I do?

The BVECDC welcomes participation and input from people who are interested in supporting the lives of children aged 0 to 6 in our community. Coalition members can participate through attendance at meetings and/or events.

Contact the Coordinator, Patricia de Boer via email bvecdcoordinator@gmail.com or 403 815-3238.

EARLY CHILDHOOD IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS