

Child & Family Services

To access services of Child Welfare Agencies in your area (CFS, DOCFS, MCFS), please contact Intake at:

Western: 1-800-483-8980

Central: 1-800-958-3076

Regional Health Authorities

The Regional Health Authorities provide many supports for pre-schoolers and their families. Healthy Baby or "Baby Steps" is a program offered to expectant parents and parents of infants 0-12 months of age. Sessions occur one to two times a month in various communities. The "Family First" program offers one on one home visits and parenting information for expectant parents and families with children aged 0-4. Public Health Nurses provide baby clinics, one on one clinic visits, early child development information. They distribute the "Read with Me" bags to newborns and "Play and Learn" bags to three year olds.

Transition to School

Following the provincial "Guidelines for Early Childhood Transition to School", transition meetings are held with parents and members of outside agencies involved with their preschoolers prior to entrance to kindergarten. The goal of these meetings is to prepare both the parent and the school team for the child's entrance to the school system. In addition to relevant school and divisional personnel, these meetings may include personnel from Children's Special Services, Society for Manitobans with Disabilities, and/or Manitoba Health. Letters are sent to the outside agencies in January to get the process in motion.

Prairie Spirit School Division personnel who may be involved with the children once they enter school include: Resource Teacher, Speech- Language Pathologist, Psychologist, Social Worker, and Student Services Administrator/Coordinator.

Early Childhood Resources in Prairie Spirit School Division



Developed by the:
**PRAIRIE SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION
EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERAGENCY
COMMITTEE 2007**

Background

The Early Childhood Interagency Committee is a network of services and resource people who are involved with families and pre-school children within Prairie Spirit School Division. The purpose of the committee is to support families and promote development in early childhood through the effective use of resources.

Manitoba Child Care Program

The Child Care Program of Manitoba Family Services and Housing is the office within the Government of Manitoba that oversees the operation of child care in the province. The Child Care Program is committed to accessible, high quality child care for children from 12 weeks to 12 years and offers a number of valuable services. Specifically, the Manitoba Child Care Program:

Check the website for additional information and resources on child care: www.gov.mb.ca/childcare or contact:

Westman – 204-761-3662

Morden (Central) – 204-822-2868

Portage (Central) – 204-239-3121

Children's Special Services

Children's Special Services provides support to families to care for children who have physical and/or developmental disabilities. This family support reduces stress encountered by families and helps them maintain their children with disabilities in their own homes to the greatest extent possible.

Brandon office (Westman area): 1-800-230-1885

Morden office (central region) 204-822-2862

Portage office (central region) 204-239-3137

www.gov.mb.ca/fs/pwd/css.html

Pre-School Speech-Language, Occupational & Physical Therapy and Audiology Services

Assiniboine Regional Health Authority: The goal of the PROMISE Years therapy programs is to provide speech and language, occupational and physical therapy services to rural pre-school children and their families through a community-based partnership. This program is available to those children who reside within the Assiniboine Regional Health Authority. The therapists and their programs are community based, creating continuity of services from pre-school to school. The therapists work with the parents and pre-school service provides to improve skills within the pre-school population. Referrals can be made by contacting the Prairie Spirit School Division office at 204-825-2721. Audiology services are provided through the Brandon Regional Health Authority Audiology Department at 1-204-571-8366

Central Regional Health Authority: preschoolers receive therapy services (speech-language, occupational & physical therapy and audiology) from Boundary Trails Health Centre, Portage General Hospital, Community Based Outreach, Referrals can be made through Central Intake at 1-800-958-3076.

Preschool Wellness Fairs

Preschool Wellness Fairs are held throughout the Prairie Spirit School Division at two different times of the year – fall and spring. Planning is done by a committee of health, community and division personnel. Dependent on the community involved, developmental screenings may be done by professionals in the areas of: speech-language, hearing, vision, dental, fine and gross motor, and general development. In addition to the screenings, information is provided to parents on a variety of topics relevant to preschoolers. For more information contact your local public health nurse through the Regional Health Authority.