



## Tri-Cities Early Years Centre

*“Every door is an open door”*

**Our Model** – Located in the Tri-Cities (Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, and the villages of Anmore and Belcarra), the Tri-Cities Early Years Centre is a network of 20 early childhood development centres which offer programs and services for families with children from birth to age 6. Hosted by SHARE Family & Community Services, the Tri-Cities Early Years Centre includes 7 Family Resource Centre sites and 13 Strong Start Centres, which are located in neighbourhoods across the Tri-Cities. Through each of these sites, families are able to access free, parent-child interactive programs and other family supports. In addition, parents and caregivers are able to link to an extensive range of community-wide supports for families, which are delivered at other Tri-Cities’ locations by Fraser Health, the Ministry of Children & Family Development, School District 43, municipal governments, and a wide variety of non-profit community partners.

### **Our Goals**

The Tri-Cities Early Years Centre aims to:

1. enhance the coordination and responsiveness of our existing early years services across the Tri-Cities, and to maximize our collective resources;
2. expand our collaborative practices, which have developed over many years of partnership and strategic planning through our Tri-Cities Early Childhood Development Committee; and
3. expand families’ engagement with programs and services which can support their children’s health, well-being and development, and enhance parents’ knowledge, skills and confidence.

### **Benefits for Families**

The Tri-Cities Early Years Centre will:

- enhance families’ awareness of existing services through stronger promotion of the network of neighbourhood-based sites which they can attend with their children 0-6 years
- increase the numbers of children who are participating in play-based early childhood learning environments, and experiencing positive early childhood and social-emotional learning
- increase the numbers of parents/caregivers (e.g. grandparents, etc.) who have the knowledge, resources, and support they need to help their children develop to their full potential
- improve the accuracy and availability of information and referrals for families accessing the neighbourhood sites
- increase families’ awareness of, and access to, the range of early years programs and supports which exist across the Tri-Cities
- increase our ability to reach out and engage families who may not yet be accessing early years programs and services
- increase families’ connections to other families, through their participation in neighbourhood-based Early Years Centre satellite locations, and other community events
- ensure that all families (including - among others - Aboriginal, immigrant and refugee families) have an enhanced sense of cultural belonging and connectedness to other families