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Programs in the e-bulletin are free unless otherwise specified.

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Local Events

Parent Connection - This Thursday!

Thursday, October 10

10am - 1pm

Passmore Hall

3656 Old Passmore Rd, Slocan Park BC

Parent Connection is for parents and caregivers with young children aged 0-8. It's a free social, with an exchange of baby and young children's goods: clothes, maternity clothes, toys, diapers, bouncers, books, etc. There is a play area with toys and books for children. And there is a free hot lunch for all.

There's no requirement to bring things—you can always just take what you need (or gather stuff for a friend) and join us for a hot, nutritious lunch and the company of other families. Babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers are welcome—grandparents, too!

Please sort your exchange items, and just bring the best to share—clean & seasonally appropriate and not tooo much!

This month's special guest is Jamie Solkoloski, from Child Care Resource and Referral. She will be there to answer your questions about starting your own childcare in your home, or any other questions about their toy library or resource library. Please come and say hello!

Parent Connection is the 2nd Thursday of every month. (Except July, August & December).

Please note: We can only take small amounts of donations from each family and no large items. If you have a lot of clothing donations or toys consider bringing them to Emporio Winlaw (at Spicer Centre) or Nelson to Positive Apparel, or other thrift stores. If you have any questions about Parent Connection please email Jen at svearlyyears@wegcss.org

[Slocan Valley Strong Start](#)

Participate with your young child (aged birth to five) in play-based early learning activities: including stories, music and art. Strong Start participants have access to movement time and a free healthy snack

This year 2024 – 2025 Strong Start:

WE Graham – Tuesdays – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Winlaw Elementary – Wednesdays – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Brent Kennedy School – Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Participate with your young child (aged birth to five) in play-based early learning activities, including stories, music, and art. Strong Start participants have access to movement time and a free healthy snack. Registration is required <https://inclusiveeducation.sd8.bc.ca/strongstart>

If you have yet to register and it's a Strong Start day - no worries! We will help you get the application started at the school. Photocopies of essential documents may also be completed with the school's amazing clerical staff. Any other questions, email Pati McLaughlin or Suzanne Bouchard, our Slokan Valley Strong Start facilitators, at svstrongstart@wegcss.org

32nd Annual Halloween Hoot Fireworks Show - Slokan

Halloween Night

Thursday October 31st

Event starts at 7pm

Fireworks between 7:30 – 8:00pm

Expo Park, Slokan

Free hot chocolate and hot dogs, bonfires and a spectacular firework show!

Look for the donation jars around Slokan to contribute to this amazingly fun annual tradition!

Positive Parenting – Nelson

Thursdays 12noon – 2pm

312 Silica Street, Nelson Family Place

Parenting can be challenging. We all want to raise happy and healthy kids. Together, in this weekly support group we can explore some ideas to make it a little bit easier.

Childminding and lunch provided. Email cathys@kootenaykids.ca

Aboriginal Infant Massage – Castlegar - Circle of Indigenous Nations

Starts September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23

10:30 – 12:30pm

For parents and caregivers of aboriginal infants up to 12 months old.

For more information or to register call Crystal 250-304-8920

or email infantdevelopment@coinations.net

Early Years FREE Clothing Closet at Kootenay Family Place – Castlegar

Kootenay Family Place

Monday – Thursday

10am – 3:30pm

767 11th avenue (behind chopsticks in Castlegar)

Clothing Closet! We have so many things, clothes from newborns to size 5T and other items, bouncers, cribs, baby carries, strollers and SO MUCH MORE.

Call our Family Connections Coordinator Kyoko for more information 778-460-5105

Slocan Valley Rec Fall Leisure Guide is out! (\$cost)

Rec Guide:

https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Services/Recreation/Leisure~Guide~Files/2024-08-13_Slocan-Valley-Fall-Guide.pdf

For more information: slocanvalleyrec@rdck.bc.ca

Halloween Family Dance Party \$Cost (\$15/per person or \$40/per family)

Saturday October 26

6pm – 11pm

The Vallican Whole (3762 Little Slocan South Rd, Vallican, BC)

Kids activities and movie, Lantern Walk and installations

DJ sets, Food, Snacks and Drinks,

Dress up and have fun!

Check out the Vallican Whole on Facebook for more information.

Pumpkin Fest Krestova \$Cost- Cost for Admission and Vendors

Admission Thursdays \$8/per person, or groups of four \$27

Admission Friday-Sunday \$12/per person, groups of four \$43.00

Children under 2 are free, admission includes corn maze

October 10, 11, (& other dates)

12pm – 5pm

Linden Lane Farms, Krestova

Pumpkins and displays, corn maze, vendors.

Visit Linden Lane Farms on Facebook for more information.

Health & Well-being

Kid Sport Funding – Grants

If you're looking to register your child in sport, and costs are holding you back, KidSport may be able to help. KidSport provides grants to children (18 and under) from families facing financial barriers so they can participate in registered sport programs. You can apply online at kidsportcanada.ca/british-columbia/provincial-fund (or find your local chapter) or complete a paper application and mail it in. Paper applications are available on the KidSport website or from your local chapter.

A few important details to keep in mind:

- Grants are to be used for the payment of sport participation/registration fees
- Canada Revenue Agency low income guidelines are used in determining eligibility
- Camps, equipment, lessons, travel, fundraising, championships, etc. are not eligible expenses
- Only one application per calendar year, for one eligible sport, may be submitted

- Applications must be received prior to, or at the beginning of the requested season of sport
- Sport activities must demonstrate a sustained sport experience (a season of sport led by a qualified coach) and the sport activity must be affiliated with a Sport BC member organization

Save – A- Smile Funding

Save-A-Smile Funding is available for families (with children under the age of 19 years and the child has dental decay) requiring immediate treatment. The family must meet the eligibility requirements and fill out an application through the Interior Health Dental Program.

Healthy Kids Program Government of BC

Basic dental, eyeglasses and hearing care. Through the Healthy Kids Program, children of low-income families can get help with the costs of: Basic dental care, Prescription eyewear, Hearing instruments, Alternative hearing assistance. More Information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/family/child-teen-health/dental-eyeglasses>

Healthy Kids Program is available for children if their parents have applied for Supplementary benefits, are on Income assistance, welfare or have rental assistance. Healthy Kids Program –provides dental treatment coverage up to \$2000.00/every 2 years. Families can apply online: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp/bc-residents/benefits/services-covered-by-msp/supplementary-benefits>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/health-supplements-and-programs/healthy-kids?keyword=healthy&keyword=kids&keyword=program>

Canadian Dental Benefit for Children- Update

The Canadian government has recently come out with another option for qualifying individuals for coverage for dental care. Roll out is taking place (after June 30th, 2024). The application schedule below, is available through the link below.

Application schedule

Children under the age of 18	Starting June 2024
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All remaining eligible Canadian residents	Starting 2025
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[Dental coverage - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental.html)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental.html>

Dental Program – Interior Health

Offers caregiver support and education for providing oral care, finding a dental home, prevention of cavities, dental screening, application of fluoride varnish, & dental education and counselling relating to prenatal and newborn dental care. Ages 0-4 years old, Lift the Lip Dental Program, Age 19+ Adults with Disabilities, Dental Health Services Community Living BC, Pregnant Mom’s – New Mom’s. For more information call 250-505-7244 or visit <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/InfantsChildren/Pages/DentalHealth.aspx>

Canada Dental Benefit

The interim Canada Dental Benefit is intended to help lower dental costs for eligible families earning less than \$90,000 per year. Parents and guardians can apply if the child receiving dental care is under 12 years old and does not have access to a private dental insurance plan.

Depending on your adjusted family net income, a tax-free payment of \$260, \$390, or \$650 is available for each eligible child. This interim dental benefit is only available for 2 periods. You can get a maximum of 2 payments for each eligible child. Benefit payments are administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/dental-benefit.html>

Virtual Mental Health Supports

Virtual services are available for British Columbians who are experiencing anxiety, depression or other mental health challenges.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/virtual-mental-health-supports#gethelp>

First Aid App

A really great resource to **download** on your phone is a **First Aid App** – there is one by the Canadian Red Cross, and a Baby and Child First Aid by the British Red Cross. Both are helpful.

Postpartum Support Society

Supporting mothers and their families experiencing postpartum/perinatal distress, depression and anxiety. Phone support and text support is active and available during our usual hours, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday to Friday. Toll-Free 855-255-7999, Texting 604-255-7999.

<http://postpartum.org/>

Online Events and Activities

Guided Meditation and Talk – Online

Tuesdays 6PM

See link below for more information and link to Zoom gathering.

<https://www.heartdharma.com/>

Planet Protector Academy (David Suzuki Foundation)

Programming is ideal for children ages 6 to 11, it incorporates music, theatre and humour to empower children to make a difference in protecting the planet.

<https://planetprotectoracademy.com/>

<https://david Suzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/butterflyway/>

Baby sign language basics resource

Learn simple signs, such as ‘milk’, ‘eat’, ‘more’, ‘all done’, ‘bed’ and others in this helpful link with some free resources. This particular website has solicitation for their printed and dvd materials. <https://www.babysignlanguage.com/dictionary/first-signs/>

Local Resources

Al-Anon

Al-Anon is a support group for family and friends of alcoholics.

In New Denver: Thursday night at 7pm

In Nelson: Wednesday’s at Noon and Friday night at 7pm

Sunday 7pm – zoom online meeting

Please email nelsonfridaynightafg@gmail.com for more information.

Are you interested in offering child care?

The requirements are different depending on what type of care you would like to offer. The West Kootenay Child Care Resource and Referral program offers support with opening up a new child care business. Reach out to Heather Broad to explore your options! Funding and business supports are available. 250-352-0407 ext.1/heatherb@kootenaykids.ca

[Child Care Resource and Referral Toy Library](#) (Nelson) - Visit it online!

Books, Story Baskets, Felt boards, Exploration Kits, Toys, Puzzles, Games, Equipment!

Here is the link to view our library resources: <https://www.libib.com/u/kkslibrary>

[Counselling Services available to Children](#)

Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS)

Nakusp and New Denver, counselling services available to children.

[Kootenay Kids - Adult & Families Groups](#)

Please email Cathy cathys@kootenaykids.ca for information, or details and if you would like to go, programs are not registered, but also, not drop in.

Mothers for Recovery – Wednesday Evenings 4-6

Rainbow Families - For any parents/caregivers under queer umbrella.

Allies Group - For those wanting to learn to be better allies, for everyone. 2nd Tuesday of the month.

[Kootenay Kids - Nelson](#)

Check out Nelson's [Kootenay Kids Event's calendar](#), groups for Moms and parents, play groups, pregnancy groups, pancake breakfasts and more!

<https://kootenaykids.ca/events/>

[Kootenay Family Place – Castlegar](#)

Check out [Castlegar's Family Place calendar](#), lots of groups family drop in, beautiful beginnings, playgroups and more! <https://kootenayfamilyplace.org/events/>

[Early Years FREE Clothing Closet at Kootenay Family Place – Castlegar](#)

Kootenay Family Place. Monday – Thursday 10am – 3:30pm

767 11th avenue (behind chopsticks in Castlegar)

Clothing Closet! We have so many things, clothes from newborns to size 5T and other items, bouncers, cribs, baby carries, strollers and SO MUCH MORE. Call our Family Connections Coordinator Kyoko for more information 778-460-5105

[Slocan Community Library](#)

Come check out our lovely local library, large and cozy kids' section, plus lots of books for youth and adult – all are welcome at the library! For hours and information: <https://slocanlibrary.ca/>

[Slocan Valley Community Band – For teens and adults!](#)

Do you play a band instrument? Did you once play a band instrument? Want to get started again and play with a fun group of people in a very encouraging environment?

The Slocan Valley Community Band welcomes new members! Rehearsal's at the Slocan Legion

Doors open at 6:30pm, for more information call Gail Elder 250-355-2459

[Slocan Valley Recreation- Equipment Rental Program](#) (\$by donation)

Slocan Park Hall

Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Thursday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

The Slocan Valley Recreation Department has recreation equipment available for rent. Cross Country Ski Equipment, Snow Shoes and sport and recreation equipment. Check out our program guide at www.rdck.ca/recreation for a list of what is available. Equipment can be booked in person or over the phone. All equipment is for rent by Donation.

[The Slocan Valley Threads Guild](#) (cost\$10/membership)

The Slocan Valley Threads Guild is a group of local people who love working with fibre – knitting, quilting, spinning, weaving, quilting, basket-making, crocheting, dyeing and more! We have our own hall located on Perry's Back Road, just off Hwy 6. New members are always welcome. A \$10 annual membership fee gets you access to our newsletter, our wonderful library, monthly meetings and a variety of classes and workshops. Please see our website for more information. <https://slocanvalleythreadsguild.wordpress.com/>

[W.E. Graham Community Service Society](#)

Has resources available: Therapists – Activities for teens – and more

Dear Slocan Valley Families, the WE Graham Service Society wants you to know that there are resources available to help should you or anyone you know be in need. Please contact (250) 355-2484 or email officemanager@wegcss.org for more information.

[Got A LOT of clothes to give away?! - Positive Apparel in Nelson](#)

Positive Apparel in Nelson takes all clothing and fabric donations. Any season, adult and child, any amount of donations, any size of clothes – including linens, towels, things with holes or stains. They are a thrift store and they also recycle fabrics. **Anything unusable gets recycled.** They do not accept pillows or stuffies. Find them at 721 Front Street, Tuesday through Saturday 10am – 3pm. Or call 250-505-5444

Community Resources

[Child Intervention Services](#)

Did you know that **ALL intervention services are FREE for children before they attend school, and are under the age of 6!** Early intervention services such as speech language, occupational therapist, physio therapist, infant development and more are available and FREE for children before they attend school and under 6. Some of these services are even available to make **home visits**. If you have any questions about how to get in touch with a professional for services, please email svearlyyears@wegcss.org or see below under Kootenay Kids, Kootenay Family Place and Interior Health.

[C.O.I.N.S Circle of Indigenous Nations Society](#)

The Circle of Indigenous Nations Society is an Aboriginal non-profit society that provides cultural support and counseling services to people in the West Kootenay and Boundary region. Offering many programs and support: Aboriginal Family Services Development Program, Healing Our Spirits Aboriginal Mental Health and Substance Use Program, Aboriginal Early Years Program, Aboriginal Family Connections Program, Aboriginal Health Connections Program, Aboriginal Supported Child Development Program, Aboriginal Infant Development Program, Aboriginal Early Intervention Program, Traditional Parenting Program, Aboriginal Community Wellness Program, Aboriginal Community Outreach Program. <https://www.coinations.net/>

[Métis Family Connection & Well Being Program](#)

<https://www.mnbc.ca/families/>

Métis Family Connection is for families with children birth to 8 years. This program is to connect families to their Métis community and culture and link them to early years programs and services in their community.

Well Being Programs help families who identify as Métis to access services, such as Respite care, Speech therapy, Assessments, Medical equipment, Mental health support, Educational & Cultural support. Please call to discuss your child's needs. Call Mackenzie Henry, Family Connections Navigator for the Kootenays. Phone 604-373-3350 ext. 8259 or Cell 250-304-5200 Or Toll Free 1-800-940-1150 Email: mhenry@mNBC.ca

Nelson and Area Friends of the Family

A foundation to assist families with emergency travel costs due to their child's illness or injury.
<https://nelsonfriendsofthefamily.ca/>

Kootenay Kids (Nelson)

Aboriginal Early Intervention, Child Care Resource and Referral, Early Care and Learning Centre, Family Place – early years programming opportunities, Pediatric Therapy, Strong Start. cathys@kootenaykids.ca
Early Intervention Services Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy. <https://kootenaykids.ca/> email

Kootenay Family Place (Castlegar)

Early Intervention Services Infant Development Program and Supported Child Development - In person visits. Families can self refer or other families can with family consent. (Referral forms on website)
<https://kootenayfamilyplace.org/>

Interior Health (Nelson)

Early Intervention Services Speech Therapy. Call 250-505-7200 for more information.

Nelson Women's Centre

We are one of the few places in Nelson where women can access very low cost counselling with our team of Counsellors. Our social workers can help with advocacy, information, support with other organisations, and advice. Contact at 250 546 8441 or email nws@nelsonwomenscentre.org.nz
Drop in space (Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm, Fri 9am-2pm), Women's Library.
To access food donations, meet outside the building during drop in hours Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-4. For counselling services as well as finding resources staff can be available by appointment at 250-352-9916.
<https://www.nelsonwomenscentre.org.nz/>

Family Action Network (FAN) (Trail)

Family Resources in the Lower Columbia, services, events, developmental check ins.
<https://familyactionnetwork.ca/>

Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician and Educator

(Car Seat Technician) – Junction area. Want to get your child's car seat checked to ensure it is installed correctly? Jen Popoff offers a FREE service to families and she can be reached at (250) 505-3747.
Please call if you have any questions or to arrange a meet up so she can check your car seat.

Family Support Institute of BC

This is a free family to family support network, for families of people with disabilities in BC. Family Support is creating a non-judgmental place where families can find **information, guidance, understanding** and **connections**. **Family Support** network helps to reduce isolation and loneliness by creating a space where people feel understood and are able to focus on celebrating their family members' abilities. See www.familysupportbc.com or call 1-800-441-5403 for more information.

Kootenay Boundary Crisis Line

Call: 1-888-353-2273

Crisis Line Association of BC

1 800 suicide (1 800 784-2433) - 24/7

Crisis and suicide intervention www.crisiscentre.bc.ca

This E-bulletin is hosted by the Slocan Valley Early Childhood Community Advisory Council (SVECCAC), a voluntary group of service providers, educators, and parents focused on giving children their best start in life. The E-bulletins are intended to keep families with young children informed of opportunities and activities available to them.

So far this year 2024, all SVECCAC projects and initiatives, including this email bulletin are most graciously being supported by grants from

*Columbia Basin Trust!
We thank you for your support!*



We also want to thank W.E. Graham Community Service Society as our Managing Partner!



Please feel free to send us your feedback or for more information, join/like/follow our facebook community @SVECCAC. Visit our page at fb.me/SVECCAC.

If you wish to be added to the distribution list, or to be removed from the list or for more information, please email valleyconnection@gmail.com