



B.C. First Nations Head Start **Communication Books**

(BCFNHS *Growing Together* newsletter, ISSUE 6, Fall Winter 2003, p.6)

MANY OF OUR HEAD START PARENTS ARE WORKING OR ATTENDING SCHOOL or short courses and do not always have the time to come into the centre to speak with teachers. Some parents do not have cars and their children ride our bus to the childcare and parents only have contact with the bus driver.

Staff found it a challenge to communicate with parents as they are busy with daily programming and looking after the children, so they don't always have the time to phone parents if they have concerns. Parents are busy with work and they don't always have the time to phone either.

In order to overcome the communication barrier, our staff developed *Communication Books* to let parents know about important things that have happened with their children in the daytime such as: gross motor development, achievements, foods the children liked, behaviors, happy moments, illness, diapering, successes in school, upcoming events.

The communication books work well as a way for teacher and parent to communicate about the child in a positive manner. Approximately 80% of the parents participate in the communication books. The staff still continue to write notes in the other 20% of books to keep parents updated. The staff use the quiet time during naps to write notes in the communication books.

Deanna Cook, Head Start Coordinator, Enderby