

**ECEBC leadership Initiative  
Final Project Report  
May 2014**

**Sponsoring Society: Shuswap Children's Association  
Community Name: Salmon Arm  
Name of Project: TRUE in the Trees**

**We have submitted a written request and plan to carry over unspent funds: No**

**Key Contact:**

**Trudi Hobson, Supported Child Development Consultant  
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**Mailing Address**

**Box 2579, 240 Shuswap St NE, Salmon Arm, B.C. V1E 4R5**

**Names of Participating ECE's**

**Trudi Hobson  
Dawn Lee  
Friday Bailey**

**Initial Project Description**

In collaboration with our community partners and building on the strengths in our ECE community, we plan to inspire residents to enjoy our natural environment with their children through family centred activities. By educating parents and caregivers of the value of learning and brain development that comes with outdoor play and social interaction between families and community we will enhance the knowledge of early childhood while enhancing community capacity. We plan to reach out beyond Salmon Arm to other communities in our regions including 4 nearby aboriginal communities to encourage partnerships and sharing of their perspective on our natural environment, child development and culturally appropriate events.

**Key project activities and events**

**March-December 2013**

- attended first leadership institute.
- organized a family hike to collect ideas and feedback to plan project.
- met with a city councillor to discuss how best to contact and work with the city.
- met with the Shuswap Trail Alliance and Salmon Arm City Parks Planner

to propose putting signs in Little Mountain Park (we were informed that this park was already targeted and funded for new signs and subsequently offered a different park that the city would like to improve).

-presented our revised plan (interpretive signage and outdoor musical instruments) to City Hall and received unanimous approval.

-designed "I Love the Shuswap" book. Gave away books and binoculars at July 1 Canada Day Festival.

-ordered instruments and donated the whale drum to Roxy Roth (music therapist) for use until installation including an event for the Salmon Arm summer library program.

-presented to Rotary Club to advocate for their assistance with installation of instruments and signs.

-Treasure Rock project begins (a side project to decorate and hide rocks in the park forest for people to find).

-designed and ordered first 2 signs.

- installed signs and instruments with Rotary volunteers (5 bongo drums and 2 signs).

\*attended second leadership institute.

### **January - June 2014**

-partnered with School District #83 and Literacy Alliance of the Shuswap to present the documentary movie "Play Again" during Unplug and Play week.

-attended School District parent training evening with the School District "Healthy School Coordinator" on "Self-Regulation" with a display of our project.

-hosted the "\$10/day presentation" three times with Emily Mliczko (City Hall, public presentation and Salmon Arm Social Issues Committee).

-attempted phone and e-mail communication with local aboriginal connection (we never did get a response).

-designed and ordered remaining 4 signs.

-wrote an article for the ECEBC journal.

-partnered with local after school program to oil the xylophone.

-installed xylophone, whale drum and remaining signs with Rotary volunteers.

-hosted TRUE in the Trees Day. Gave away binoculars, "I Love the Shuswap" books and bubbles for every child. Special guest speaker Bridgette Alomes from Natural Pod .

-attended third leadership institute and ECEBC conference

-reported to Shuswap Children's Association at the AGM

## **Most Significant Change Story**

The one that we all seemed to share the most is our new connections with the greater ECE community. Having people to reach out to when we need guidance and inspiration and having personal relationships with some of the most influential women in our profession is meaningful and significant to each of us. We feel proud to be a part of our provincial ECE community and to be supported by our mentors and fellow professionals. These relationships provide a sense of empowerment and excitement to our careers as early childhood educators.

### **Sharing our Leadership Capacity (maintaining momentum of project and leadership capacity).**

**Activity:** Look into partnering with the Salmon Society to distribute "I Love the Shuswap". They would pay a percentage of sales back to project.

Date/Timeline: Fall 2014?

Responsibility: Trudi will talk to the representative.

Hoped for Outcome: outreach to a wider audience that acknowledges ECE's and promotes our project goals (Together, Relax, Unplug, Explore).

**Activity:** Consider starting an informal ECE group in Salmon Arm

Date/Timeline: Fall 2014

Responsibility: Friday would be looking into this

Hoped for Outcome: building relationships (personal and professional) in an informal friendly gathering every few months.

**Activity:** partner with Natural Pod to do a story on their website re: the value of nature play from an ECE perspective.

Date/Timeline: June 2014

Responsibility: Trudi

Hoped for Outcome: connecting to a wider audience regarding our personal values, project goals, and promoting our local project.

**Activity:** encourage Shuswap Children's Association and the Early Child Development Committee to "adopt" the park and keep the idea of TRUE in the TREES alive.

Date/Timeline: Ongoing

Responsibility: Trudi, Dawn, Friday

Hoped for Outcome: the park will become a place for open ended activities for children and adults of all ages. The Early Childhood community will come to the park regularly.