

Staff Report



April 16, 2024

To Board of Education (Public Meeting)
From Sean Nosek, Superintendent/CEO
Re **Abbotsford School District Child Development Fair**

This report is presented to the Board for information.

BACKGROUND:

To encourage parents to learn more about the programs and services offered in our community in a safe and fun environment, the Abbotsford School District Early Learning Team and community partners (Fraser Health Authority, Fraser Valley Child Development Centre, Fraser Valley Regional Library, Metis Association, Childcare Resource and Referral, Family Centre/Best for Babies, Abbotsford Community School Society, Hand In Hand Childcare Centre, Family Smart) hosted a Child Development Fair and Free Movie Screening ('Horton Hears a Who!') at the Abbotsford Arts Centre on Saturday, April 6, 2024.

The event was an overwhelming success, as there were approximately 300 families who attended. The majority of the attendees were not aware of many of the programs and services available to them, nor had they ever attended a movie at a theatre with their children. Below is some of the feedback we received:

"Thank you for giving us a chance to give our child the opportunity of a cinema experience. It was always something special for me as a child and with the cost of going to the movies today, this event meant sharing that experience was possible."

"We never would have taken our child for a movie experience due to the cost and the age of our child, especially since we weren't sure if our child could sit through an entire movie. This event allowed us to have this experience in a stress-free environment that felt supportive and inclusive."

"This was a lovely event. Having a movie date with my youngest was truly special. We both enjoyed the movie, and the candy bags were a hit! A special thank you for the parent candy bag, it was awesome! Bravo!"

The event's goal was to connect with families and highlight the programs and services available to them in our community. The Early Learning Team achieved that goal and looks forward to hosting this event again.