

## SERVICE DESCRIPTION

# FAMILY DEVELOPMENT- PENDER, MAYNE, GALIANO & SATURNA

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

This service provides early intervention, prevention and other support activities for children and families experiencing stress, parenting challenges, or early signs of abuse, neglect or other risks to child well-being. The service is available on Galiano, Mayne, Pender, and Saturna Islands.

### **HISTORY:**

The Ministry for Child and Family Development began this service on the less populated Southern Gulf Islands in 1990 as a response to an increasing need to have community-based early intervention and prevention resources for families in these remote island communities. Salt Spring Community Services has provided the service since its inception.

### **POPULATION SERVED:**

The service is available to children, youth and families who live on Galiano, Mayne, Saturna and Pender Islands.

### **GOALS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES:**

1. Decrease risk of children being abused and/or neglected.
2. Improve parenting skills for parents and/or caregivers.
3. Improve relationships for parents with social supports and formal helping resources.
4. Improve family, social and other significant relationships.
5. Improve self esteem, coping and problem solving skills.
6. Improve school and community functioning for children.
7. Improve opportunities for social, recreational and community activities for families.

**SERVICE DELIVERY PHILOSOPHY AND PRINCIPLES:**

1. Service delivery will be caring, respectful, safe and open.
2. People will be treated with dignity and respect.
3. Services will be provided in a discreet and confidential manner.
4. Services will be empowering including the provision of advocacy and information.
5. Service will be person-centered including being flexible, individualized and involving the person and/or family served in setting the direction of service.
6. Service will be responsive and timely.

**SERVICE DELIVERY ACTIVITIES:**

1. **Assessment and Goal Planning.** The Counsellor works with the family and others to develop plans based on the individual needs assessment. This may be done in collaboration with MCFD, school or physicians.
2. **Individual Counselling.** The Counsellor provides person-centered and solution-focused short term counselling. Counselling is strength-based and may include social and life skill development.
3. **Family Counselling.** Family-centered and solution-focused counselling that includes the entire family system and is strength based.
4. **Conflict Resolution and Mediation.** The Counsellor helps resolve differences by acting as an intermediary between conflicting parties.
5. **Information and Education.** The Counsellor provides education and information to individuals, families and the community related to healthy family life.
6. **Case Management and Coordination.** The Counsellor communicates relevant ideas, goals and information between family, school and community supports to ensure services are delivered in an effective and holistic way.
7. **Referral and Advocacy.** The Counsellor refers families to other services as needed, and acts on their behalf when needed to obtain resources and services.

**LOCATION:**

Service is provided on Mayne, Pender, Galiano and Saturna Islands. The service is provided in confidential offices and meeting space in each community. Service may be provided in community locations including home and school.

**HOURS:**

The service is available 8 am to 3 pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Specific hours on specific islands may vary depending on caseload needs and priorities.

**STAFF RESOURCES:**

One Counsellor provides services and coordinates the various aspects of the program. The Counsellor reports to the Director of Child, Youth and Community Living Services. The Counsellor is part of the Child and Youth Services Team, a multi-service team including mental health, alcohol and drug, family support, and early childhood services.

**ACCESS TO SERVICE:**

Service may be accessed through Salt Spring Island Community Services at 537-9971 or directly through the Family Development Counsellor at 1-250-222-0025. Referrals are received from MCFD, schools, physicians, community agencies or directly from families.

**FUNDING/SPONSORSHIP:**

The service is funded by the Ministry of Child and Family Development.

**STANDARDS/REFERENCES/BEST PRACTICES:**

1. CARF accreditation standards
2. Child and Youth Mental Health Plan, MCFD

**PARTNERSHIPS/KEY CONNECTIONS:**

1. School District #64
2. Ministry for Child and Family Development
3. RCMP/Victim Services
4. Physicians and Community Nurses