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OF THE CHILDREN SOCIETY

JOB POSTING: Aboriginal Infant Development Consultant

JOB SUMMARY:

The Aboriginal Infant Development Program is a holistic program and works in partnership with parents and/or caregivers to develop useful strategies to promote healthy child development. This position is primarily responsible for setting individualized activities for children and their families during home visits, work with related agencies and professionals, and be able to work independently, maintaining a client caseload and group/program facilitation required. Through outreach visits the AIDC will provide developmental and resourceful information, assessment, referrals, and support for families of the program.

REPORTS TO: ECD Program Manager and Executive Director

KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Promote and support traditional cultural teachings and practice for our families, agency, and community.
- Build professional supportive relationships and rapport with the parents and extended family of the children referred to the AIDP program
- Practice holistic, strength based principles.
- Make home visits with infants to preschool aged children to assess their development and plan with parents an ongoing program to stimulate or enhance optimum development and monitor progress.
- Use cultural traditional practices that focus on the mind, emotion, body and spirit and recognize family strengths and assets.
- Administer developmental screening and assessments such as but limited to: Nippissing, Battelle, Assessment Evaluation Programs System, Ages and Stages, Ages and Stages Social Emotional Questionnaire's and write reports and recommendations as needed.
- Maintain liaison with other health and social service professionals and professionals who work with Aboriginal families, such as, but not limited to: Elders, Physical therapists, Public Health workers, Occupational therapists, Speech and language pathologists and vision consultants. Maintain good relations with referral services such Aboriginal Health and Hospital Liaison Worker and Hospital Social Workers.
- Make appropriate referrals for further assessment and or support or counseling to other agencies or professionals as necessary.
- Facilitate parent education sessions and groups to increase parents' knowledge of children's normal growth and developmental milestones. Discuss with parents the normal range for their child's growth and development and assist them to take responsibility for enhancing the development of their children and to develop effective and caring parenting skills, which respect local traditional values and culture.
- Facilitate parent education sessions and groups including but not limited to: Prenatal, Postnatal and Infant Massage to increase parents' understanding of post-partum depression, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Shaken Baby Syndrome, sibling relationships, partner relationships, stress management, bonding and attachment and self-care, incorporated with the Seven Sacred Teachings and Medicine Wheel Teachings.
- Be a resource person for community baby clinics, prenatal and postnatal classes, parenting groups to discuss child development and positive parenting practices. Encourage parent participation in these



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groups. Ensure that all services are delivered in accordance with the Provincial Aboriginal Development Program Policy and Procedures Manual with respect to their own caseload.

- In coordination with the ECD Teachers, provide parenting support or information in areas such as nutrition, education, safety, injury prevention, play, reading, music, bonding and attachment and ways of enhancing early brain development.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education and Experience

- Infant development certificate or diploma – CYC, FNCYC, ECE.
- Minimum of 3 years experience in IDP or related ECD work.
- First Aid and Food Safe.
- Working knowledge of the stages of early childhood development stages; and assessment tools.
- Direct program delivery experience in the community social service sector with a demonstrated working knowledge of family centered care, early intervention child development, and community-based programs.

Skills and Attributes

- Strong organizational skills, ability to multi-task in a dynamic working environment; self-motivated personality; ability to work independently and as a team player.
- Excellent understanding and knowledge of Aboriginal culture, traditions and socio-economic issues affecting urban Aboriginal families.
- Knowledge and experience of group process and facilitation techniques.
- Well-developed interpersonal skills, supportive counseling, and advocacy skills.
- Well organized, good time and general management skills. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Basic computer skills, including Microsoft Word, and Outlook.
- Knowledge of Aboriginal communities, organizations, and service providers within Circle 6.
- Reliable transportation and current and valid BC driver's License and willing to obtain business insurance and liability coverage.
- Driver's Abstract required.
- Criminal records check required.

If lack of capacity is an issue then educated candidates who have excellent qualifications, who may not meet all of the qualification requirements, may be considered for mentoring into this position. A mentored candidate will have two years to reach required educational milestones and qualifications outlined by the ECD Program Manager.

TO APPLY

Please send a cover letter and resume to Wanda Edgar, Early Childhood Development Program Manager at w.edgar@sotcs.ca. Position will be open until filled. Aboriginal candidates strongly encouraged to apply; please self-identify in cover letter.