

Input needed to end barriers

The program you want for your toddler is never on when you have time off work. It costs too much to take the bus into town for storytime at the library. There's a waiting list to have your child see a specialist.

Despite the diligent efforts of those who work to improve the lives of children aged 0-6 in Mission, barriers remain for people to access services in our community.

That's why those service providers through the Mission Early Childhood Development Committee and the Understanding the Early Years project are undertaking an ambitious parent survey

project to find out what parents want and need for their children.

"It's important that we connect with parents and understand what the challenges are for them when it comes to getting services for their children," said Laura Wilson, Early Development Committee coordinator.

Researcher Roberta O'Brien has been hired to conduct social research as part of Mission's federally funded Understanding the Early Years project. O'Brien has created the parent input survey and will spearhead the effort to connect with parents.

The campaign will target locations

where most parents frequent — grocery stores. Parents will be able to fill out the quick and simple survey at Save-On-Foods, Safeway and the Leisure Centre.

"We'll be out there talking to as many parents as possible," O'Brien said.

Wilson and O'Brien — both parents with kids living in Mission — are hoping to have almost 300 families with children under six years old take part.

The results of the survey will help the Early Childhood Development committee and the Understanding the Early Years project in future planning and help break down some of the barriers to services.

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Survey aims to find barriers

Results will help with future planning for children's programming

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