

Articles, activities & connections

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## Abuzz with Activity!

Hello Families

With cherry blossoms and tulips finally blooming around town, it seems that spring has definitely arrived. Better late than never! As the thermometer (slowly) rises, and the kids midway through their last term of the school year, our thoughts tend to shift to IEP reviews, class placements for the next school year, and of course, summer planning.

At CHHA Parents' Branch we too have been invigorated by the new season and have put together some exciting events for families to enjoy in the coming months. We have a Parent Coffee Night planned for Wednesday, May 24 and a Family Picnic in Burnaby on Saturday, June 17 hosted jointly with FNDC, DYT, Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side and PDHHS.

In July, join us for our annual Summer Picnic on Sunday, July 23 at Bear Creek Park, and on the Labour Day long weekend, together with BC PEER Youth Support Program, we are bringing back an old favorite – the Family Weekend Camp on Sept 1-3. A wonderful way to wrap up the summer!

So, mark your calendars with these dates and be sure to visit the CHHA Parents' website ([www.chhaparents.com](http://www.chhaparents.com)) for details and registration information. You won't want to miss any of these upcoming events. They are a great way to connect with other families who have deaf and hard of hearing children and make some great memories with your kids as well.

Happy Spring everyone!



Facebook



Website



Email

**Connect with us, we'd love to hear from you!**

### **Working Group**

#### **Members**

Alisa Bridger  
Katherine Foo  
Willetta Les  
Cathy Luther  
Jarlath Mackenzie  
Juliet Napier  
Elaine Rosario  
Anja Rosenke

### **Become a Member**

### **Our Mission Statement**

We are a parent group who are

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## **Annual Family Movie Night**

### **Juliet Napier**

On Friday, February 24th we held our family movie night at BC Family Hearing Resource Centre in Surrey. We had an excellent turnout with over 30 people. It was great to see lots of familiar faces as well as some new families! The kids came dressed in their PJs & quickly got cozy with their stuffies & blankets. They all enjoyed watching the movie, "The Secret Life of Pets" whilst snacking on popcorn, juice & treats. We're always very happy to observe the friendships that are forming between these kids & we hope that they will continue these connections for many years to come!

The parents met in another room to discuss school situations & share IEPs. Some of the students attend private schools but most of them are in public schools in Richmond, Delta, Surrey & Langley School Districts. It's very interesting to compare supports & strategies in place for deaf & hard of hearing students in different school districts. Parents with intermediate students are able to give advice to parents with primary students based on their years of experience. IEPs are always a hot topic for our families so we will continue sharing information & examples of these at future meetings. Everyone enjoyed the evening & this event has become another annual highlight of the CHHA BC Parents' Branch calendar!

passionate about connecting & supporting families throughout BC who have school-aged children living with hearing loss. Through fun family activities our children develop sustaining friendships as they grow into young adults. We educate and support parents through our newsletters, workshops and other events. As a parent group, we understand the power of learning from one another.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **PARENTS COFFEE NIGHT**

Wednesday, May 24th – 7pm – 9pm  
BC Family Hearing Resource Center

Our last coffee / movie night was a success where families talked about their IEP documents and shared both challenges and strategies in tackling these.

At our next Coffee Night, we will talk about the summer activities we have planned / are planning, what are some of the challenges our hard of hearing children might face and how we can overcome these.

We hope you will join us, RSVP is not necessary. [Click for larger image.](#)

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**CONVERSATIONS  
-----OVER-----  
COFFEE**

an opportunity for parents with hard of hearing kids/teens to chat, share and learn from each other

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 - 7:00 to 9:00 pm

**LOCATION:** BC Family Hearing Resource Centre  
15220 92 Avenue, Surrey

**TOPIC:** "Making the most of the summer break - activities & challenges"

**CONTACT:** no RSVP required. Questions? [info@chhaparents.com](mailto:info@chhaparents.com)  
[www.chhaparents.com](http://www.chhaparents.com)

 Canadian Hard of Hearing Association  
CHHA B.C. Parents' Branch 

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**fun family PICNIC**

An event for deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind children, their siblings and parents.  
We also welcome Deaf/hard of hearing parents and their children (CODA).

**Saturday, June 17, 2017 11:00am to 3:00pm**

at Provincial Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services  
4334 Victory Street, Burnaby

**We will provide:**

- Hot Dog Lunch, Entertainment & Games
- An opportunity to mix & mingle with other families, and with youth/young adults who are deaf and hard of hearing.

**Please bring with you:**

- A plate to share: salad, fruit, vegetables or dessert (note: there is no access to a freezer/fridge/oven)
- Lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on

**Pre-registration is required so we can feed everyone :) Register online at [www.fnbc.ca/familypicnic](http://www.fnbc.ca/familypicnic) by June 13.**

**Hosted by:**

- BC Hands and Voices
- Guide By Your Side
- BC Early Hearing Program
- CHHA BC Parents' Branch
- Family & Community Services
- Family Network for Deaf Children
- Deaf Youth Today

**Rain or Shine!**

**Free Admission!**

Donations gratefully accepted.

### **CHHA BC PARENTS ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC**

Sunday, July 23rd – 11am – 2pm

Bear Creek Park

Our summer picnic last year was a continued success and keeping with tradition, we hope you and your family will join us for the next one in July. This event gives families a chance to get

together, for the kids to see each other again and the opportunity to mingle and share ideas.

Visit our facebook page for more information on this and our other events.



### CHHA BC PARENTS & YOUTH FAMILY CAMP

Friday - Sunday, September 1 – 3, Camp Elkgrove, Aldergrove

We're very excited to announce the date & location of our joint family camp with CHHA BC Youth Peer Support Program. We'll be staying at Camp Elkgrove in Aldergrove on the Labour Day weekend, Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd September, 2017. The camp is run by The Elks Recreational Children's Camp

Society. The camp site has four large cabins with washrooms which sleep 12 people each for a maximum capacity of 48 people. The large communal building has a dining hall, full kitchen facilities, full bathroom facilities & space for indoor activities. Elementary age children will stay with their parents & siblings. High school age students will be supervised by their two group leaders. For outdoor activities, there is a big central field & a playground with a jungle gym, swing set & model boat.

A special feature of Camp Elkgrove is the barnyard with a variety of farm animals including horses, goats, ducks & chickens. The animals are looked after by caretakers & safely enclosed behind fencing. We'll visit the barnyard during the weekend & the theme of our camp will be farm animals. We'll make some crafts, play some games & sing some songs related to this theme. We'll have a games night on Friday evening & a movie night on Saturday evening. We'll stay for two nights until Sunday lunch time. The cost of the weekend camp will be free for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Parents & siblings will pay \$30 each for food, drinks accommodation

& activities. We would like to thank CHHA BC for supporting our family weekend camp. For more information and/or to register your family, please contact Bowen [chhabcypsp@gmail.com](mailto:chhabcypsp@gmail.com) before the registration deadline of May 31st. Check out the BC Elks website at [www.bcelks.ca](http://www.bcelks.ca) for photographs of Camp Elkgrove.



**Family Weekend Camp is back!**  
 Friday to Sunday, September 1 - 3, 2017

CHHA BC Parents Branch in partnership with  
 CHHA BC Youth Peer Support Program invite  
 you to join us for summer camp!

Camp Elkgrove - 27863 0 Avenue, Abbotsford, BC  
 6:30pm on Friday to 12:30pm on Sunday

Free for hard of hearing child/youth; \$30 per parent and/or sibling.  
 Includes accommodation, meals and activities!

Register by May 31 at <https://goo.gl/pfFqA3> [chhabcypsp@gmail.com](mailto:chhabcypsp@gmail.com)

Join us for fun summer times!

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association  
 CHHA B.C. Parents' Branch

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association  
 BC Youth Peer Support Program

### Developing your child's reading skills

**From: Success for Kids with hearing Loss**

<http://successforkidswithhearingloss.com/reading/>

The love of reading starts at home! Here are 10 ways that families can improve their child's reading skills, with or without hearing loss

1. Set aside a regular time to read to your children every day.

Studies show that regularly reading out loud to children will produce significant gains in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and the decoding of words. Whether your children are preschoolers or preteens, it will increase their desire to read independently.

2. Surround your children with reading material.

Children with a large array of reading materials in their homes score higher on standardized tests. Tempt your kids to read by having a large supply of appealing books and magazines at their reading level. Put the reading materials in cars,

bathrooms, bedrooms, family rooms, and even by the TV.

3. Have a family reading time.

Establish a daily 15 to 30 minute time when everyone in the family reads together silently. Seeing you read will inspire your children to read. Just 15 minutes of daily practice is sufficient to increase their reading fluency.

4. Encourage a wide variety of reading activities.

Make reading an integral part of your children's lives. Have them read menus, roadside signs, game directions, weather reports, movie time listings, and other practical everyday information. Also, make sure they always have something to read in their spare time when they could be waiting for appointments or riding in a car.

5. Develop the library habit.

Entice your children to read more by taking them to the library every few weeks to get new reading materials. The library also offers reading programs for children of all ages that may appeal to your children and further increase their interest in reading.

6. Be knowledgeable about your children's progress.

Find out what reading skills they are expected to have at each grade level. The school's curriculum will give you this information. Track their progress in acquiring basic reading skills on report cards and standardized tests.

7. Look for reading problems.

Teachers do not always detect children's reading problems until they've become serious. Find out if your children can sound out words, know sight words, use context to identify unknown words, and clearly understand what they read.

8. Get help promptly for reading problems.

Reading problems do not magically disappear with time. The earlier children receive help, the more likely they will become good readers. Make sure your children receive necessary help from teachers, tutors, or learning centers as soon as you discover a problem.

9. Use a variety of aids to help your children.

To help your children improve their reading, use textbooks, computer programs, books-on-tape, and other materials available in stores. Games are especially good choices because they let children have fun as they work on their skills.

10. Show enthusiasm for your children's reading.

Your reaction has a great influence on how hard they will try to become good

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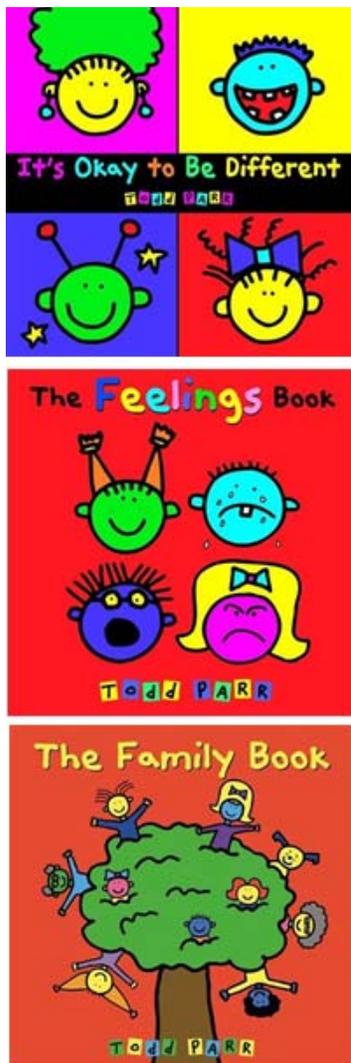
readers. Be sure to give them genuine praise for their efforts.

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Each issue we will feature one or two books which touch on a variety of topics around the subject of hearing loss or being different. Click on the book cover to purchase on Amazon, or check your local book store.

## FOR KIDS



## Todd Parr Book series

- Juliet Napier

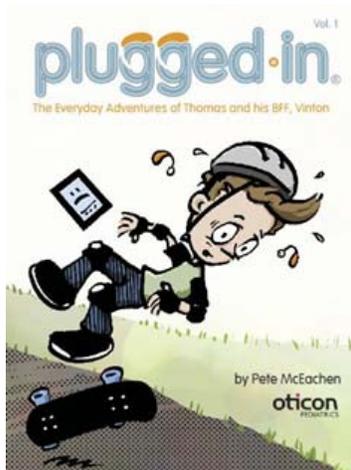
Todd Parr is the author & illustrator of more than 40 books for children. He lives in Berkeley, California, USA with his family & his dogs. All children can identify with his simple, bold style of illustrations and his love of animals. They are inspired by the messages in his books which focus on family & feelings. The message is always stated very clearly on the last page of the book with a short letter from Todd to his readers. These books stand out on a bookshelf because they are printed in a square shape & the covers are bright & colourful. You can find out more information about Todd Parr & all of his books at [www.toddparr.com](http://www.toddparr.com).

My 7 year old son is in grade 2 & he enjoys reading all of these books aloud. One of his favourite titles is Its OK To Be Different. The theme of this book is "being yourself" & it teaches children to embrace their individuality. For example, the book tells you it's OK to need some help, it's OK to be a different colour, it's OK to be small, medium, large or extra-large, it's OK to wear glasses, it's OK to be adopted & it's OK to get mad. My son has a hearing loss, he wears two hearing aids, he was adopted at 2 years old, he has a sensory processing disorder & he's small for his age because he was a premature baby. He has a lot of differences from his friends but this book tells him that all of those things are OK. It's the perfect book for him & the phrase "It's OK to be different" has become one of his favourite phrases! The letter from Todd on the last page of the book states, "It's OK to be different. You are special & important just because of being who you are."

Another one of my son's favourite Todd Parr books is We Belong Together A Book About Adoption & Families. This book is dedicated to all the children in the world that need a home & a family. The book also talks about the adoption of animals as family pets & the joy of reading together. "We belong together because you needed a friend & I knew where to find one. We all needed someone to play catch with. We belong together because you needed someone to read to you & we had stories to share. Now we all have someone to make us laugh." My son loves playing with our dog, Jasper who is also 7 years old in people years. We all enjoy going for dog walks together & taking good care of Jasper. Everyone needs to feel that they belong to their family & to their group of friends. The letter from Todd on the last page of this book states, "There are lots of different ways to make a family. It just takes love. Share your home & share your heart."

Todd Parr has written several books about feelings which inspire kids to embrace the wide range of moods we all experience. Adults can also enjoy sharing these books with their children &

they are a great starting point for talking about your feelings. The titles that are specifically about feelings include The Feel Good Book, The I'm Not Scared Book, Reading Makes You Feel Good, The Feelings Book & The I Love You Book. Todd always gives sound advice to his readers of all ages. At the end of The Feelings Book he states, "No matter how you feel, don't keep your feelings to yourself. Share them with someone you love." This is so true & we all know that a problem shared is a problem halved! Todd's books make kids feel good about themselves & help them to express their feelings & to be proud of their differences. Let's hope this wonderful author keeps writing more of these important books!



## **Plugged In - The Everyday Adventures of Thomas and his BFF Vinton**

### **E book by Pete McEachen**

Thomas, the hero of the new Plugged In comic strip, is a typical fun-loving boy who navigates the ups and downs of middle school with a sense of adventure – and a hearing loss.

The first Plugged In book is a 61-page child friendly graphic comic book that introduces readers to 11-year-old Thomas, his BFF (Best Friend Forever) Vinton and their spunky, upbeat friend Juliette.

The characters in the Plugged In books are named after prominent historical figures with hearing loss or deafness. Thomas is named for inventor Thomas Edison, Vinton for Vinton Cerf, co-founder of the Internet, and Juliette is named for Juliette Low, founder of the Girl Scouts.

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