



Grow Along with Me Project Update - March 2010

“Innovation and creative thinking demands collaboration”¹

Over the last two-and-a-half years, the *Grow Along with Me Project* has successfully demonstrated an innovative approach to developmental screening and follow-up services. Access has significantly increased, coordination of services has improved, staff are working more efficiently and parents are more self-assured and self-reliant.

Three *Key Findings Summaries* are attached to this project update. These include:

Collaboration – Moving Strategy to Practice!

Developmental Checkups – Prevention in Action!

Building Capacity – Building Strong Families and Strong Communities!

Detailed evaluation reports can be accessed on the Grow Along with Me website
www.growalongwithme.ca

It has been very rewarding to work with such a diverse, dedicated and passionate group of people. Without the Grow Along with Me Project, parents would not have had the access to the range of developmentally appropriate and evidence-based services that have been offered during the last two-and-a-half years. Many parents would not have received information, support and when necessary clinical intervention to help them support their children at this critical time for growth and development. The stories from the parents who have been forever touched will remain beyond the end of the project.

Project funding ends in May 2010. Opportunities to maintain the key activities will continue to be explored. As highlighted in the recent **Marmot Review: Fair Society, Healthy Lives**, “Giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing health inequalities across the life course. The foundations for virtually every aspect of human development – physical, intellectual and emotional – are laid in early childhood.”² The findings from this project, and the other four innovation projects, can inform Alberta’s commitment to supporting “Alberta’s most important renewable resource...our children.”³

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mark Moland'.

Mark Moland
Chair
Grow Along with Me Steering Committee

¹ Callahan S, Schenk M, and White N. (2009) Building a collaborative workplace. Anecdote Whitepaper, Full Circle Associates. Accessed on February 23, 2010 from www.anecdote.com

² Marmot Review. (2010). Fair Society, Healthy Lives. Accessed on February 23, 2010 from <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/gheg/marmotreview/Documents/finalreport/FairSocietyHealthyLivesChapter2>

³ Honourable Ted Morton (2010). Budget 2010: Striking the Right Balance, Budget Speech Accessed on February 23, 2010 from <http://www.finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2010/speech.pdf>