



Parenting in a New Country

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Housekeeping

1. Downloading PowerPoint Presentations
2. Accessing the Chat box



Submitting Questions for the Q&A Session

- Type your questions in the **Chat Box**
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- Email to **events@amssa.org**



Join the Conversation on Twitter

- Use **#AMSSAevents** to follow the conversation on Twitter and connect with other webinar participants.
- AMSSA can be found on Twitter **@amssabc**



What is AMSSA?

- A provincial association of organizations focused on immigrant settlement, integration and language, as well as diversity and inclusion.
- Contracted by IRCC to support a broad range of immigrant and language service providers and stakeholders in BC.



Welcome & Overview

Julie Ship and Sabrina Ziegler
*A/Language Coordinator and
Settlement Coordinator*



Welcome & Introductions

Presenters



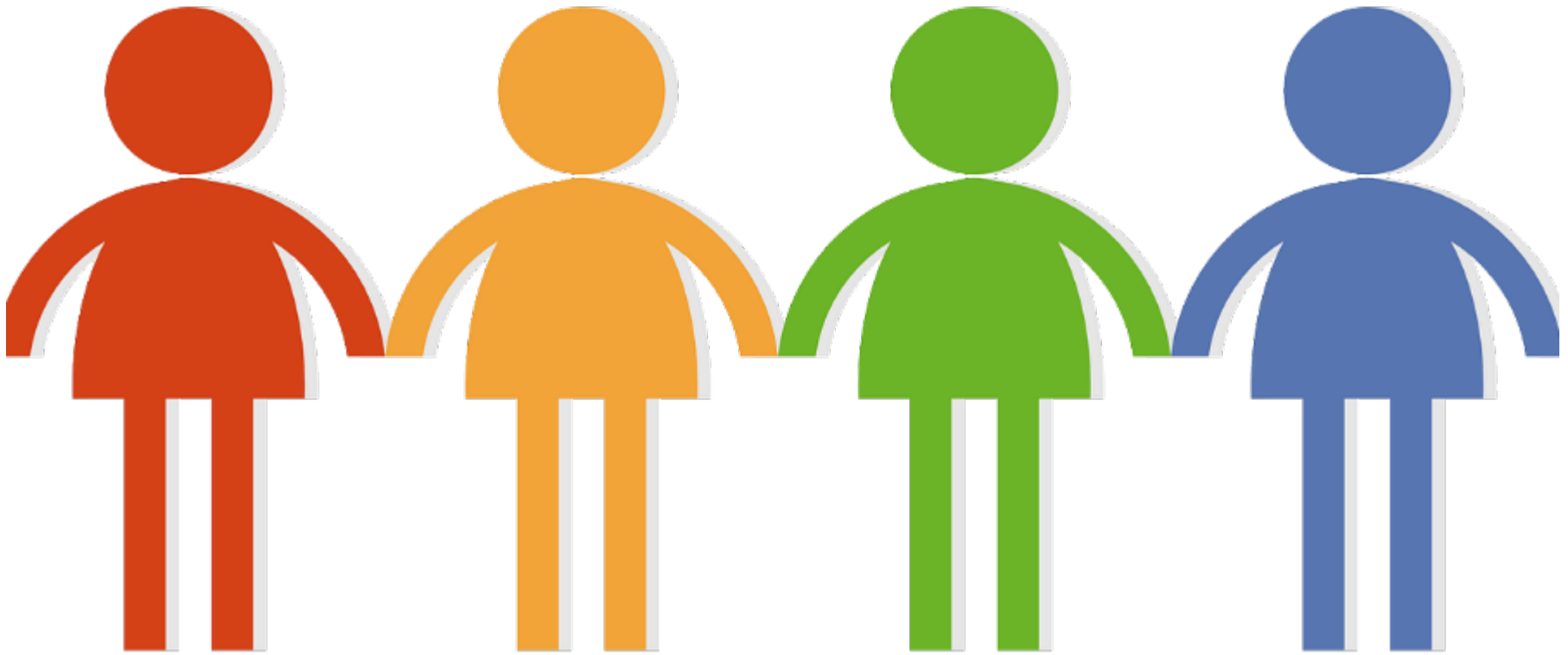
Frances Clarke

Online Resource Developer for LINC Programs
ISSofBC



Transnational Families: Lone Parenting in a New Country

Frances Wintjes Clarke, MA

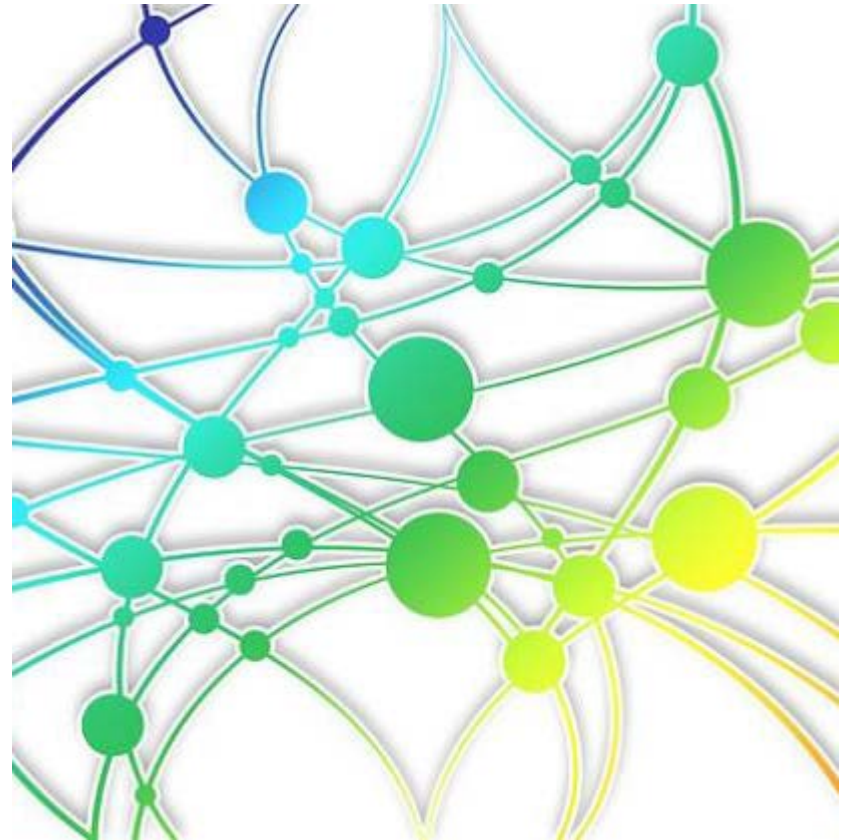


Transnational Families: Lone Parenting in a New Country

- Transnational migration
- Flexible/Astronaut families
- Cross-cultural adaptation



In Their Own Words



Lone Parenting in a New Country

“At home we work, we have a job, we have many relatives, we have a lot of friends – more free time together. Here you just stick to the kids – your kids.” (N)

Lone Parenting in a New Country

“It’s quite different here so I don’t know how to teach my son – that’s a big problem. Difficult to balance because I’m not alone to teach him. My husband sometimes he wants to push my son to do something through me, so it’s challenging.” (D)

Lone Parenting in a New Country

“Because my son is almost moving to the teenage years, so I think it’s a big problem for me to have him have a role model beside him – his father is too far away. So, how to be a real Canadian man for my son. It's really hard for me to imagine.” (D)

English Language Skills

“I wish I could attend all kind of programs, but sometimes I think my English is limited. You really want to say something but it’s hard for you to do. You don’t have that kind of vocabulary.”
(I)

Building Community

“To be involved in the community more, to know the society more – when you care about the people around you – then you feel really you are here. Your heart is here” (D)

Building Community

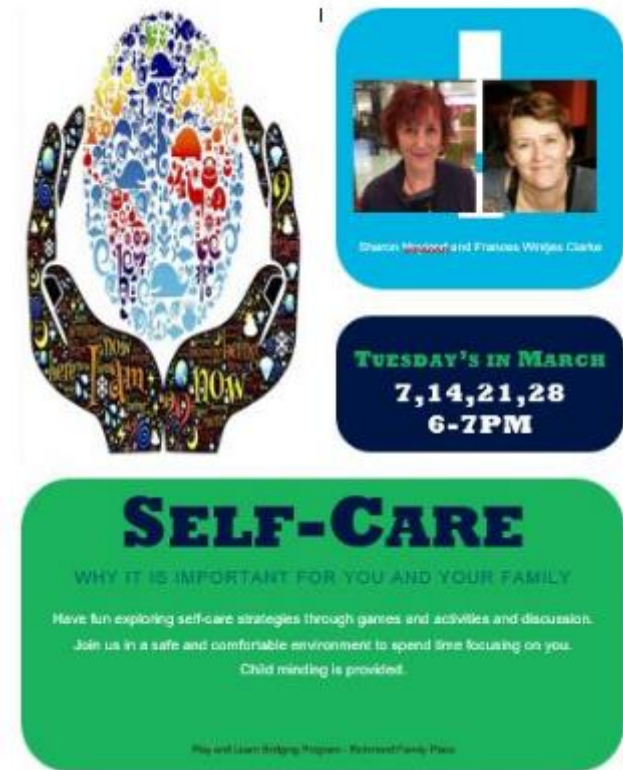
“ At our church sometimes there is Western people who invite us to their house so we can bake, so we can understand local culture. I would like to do more but I don't know how to ask.” (I)

Ways to Support

Self-care
workshops for
parents

Child-care
provided

Translator present



Q&A with Speakers

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Nina Vacca
LINC Childcare Manager
Collingwood Neighbourhood House



Supporting Newcomer Parents in LINC Programming



Herminia Vacca
LINC Childcare Manager



- Positive aspects of the licensing process
- Strategies to support newcomer parents and children

Positive aspects of becoming licensed

- Policies & procedures
- Safety
- Quality of care

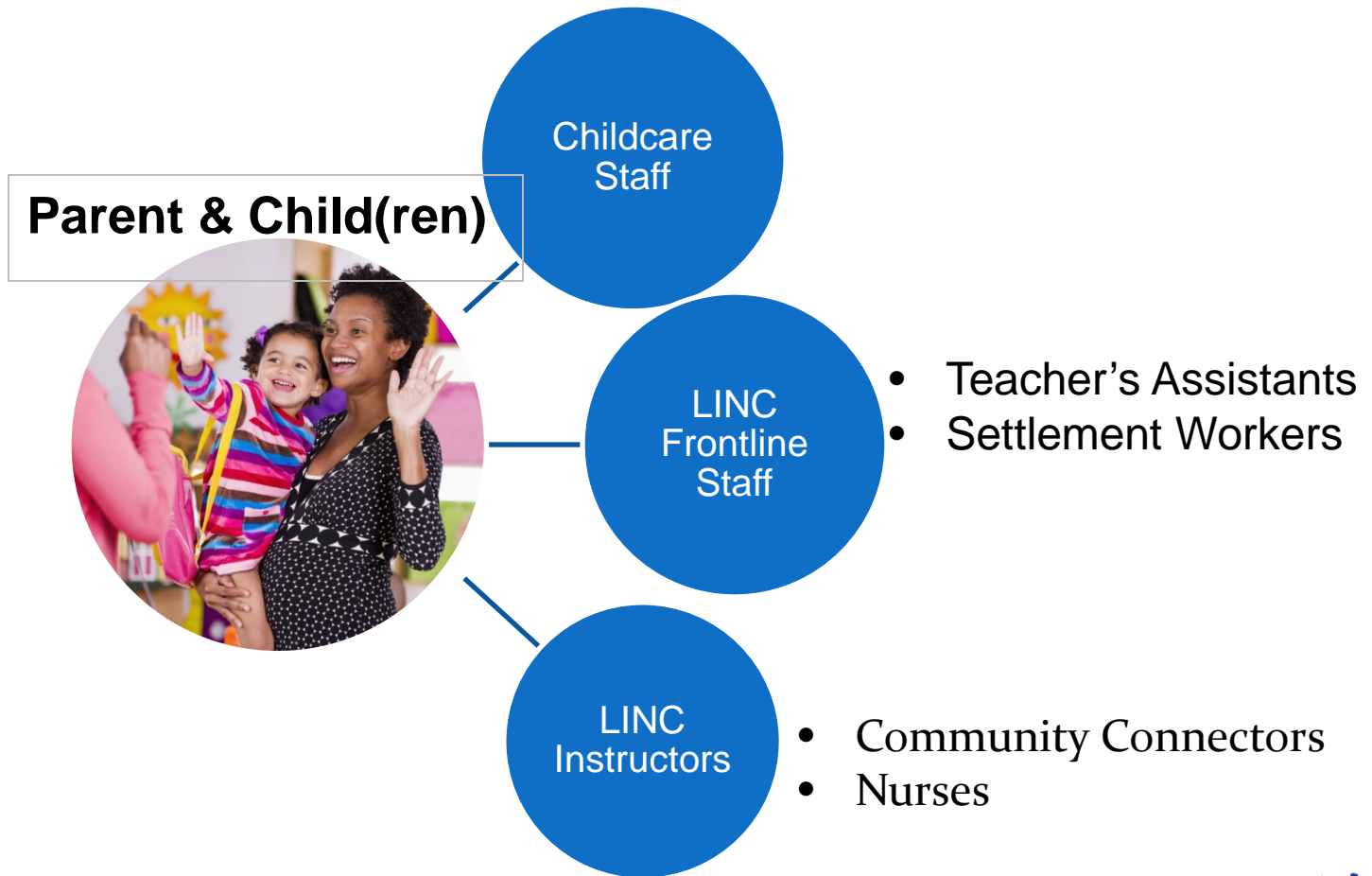
Policies and Procedures

- Health and Safety
- Physical Environment
- Staff Qualifications
- Child: Staff Ratios
- Enrollment
- Inclusive Practice

Strategies to Support Newcomer Parents and Children

- Teamwork
- Parents and Childcare Workers Communication
- Parent and Child Activities
- Cultural Celebrations
- Referrals
- Gradual Entry

LINC Staff Communication



Teamwork Strategies



Parents and Staff Communication



Parent and Child Activities



Cultural Celebrations



Herminia Vacca

Early Childcare Educator

CNH - LINC Childcare Manager

hvacca@cnh.bc.ca

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Khatereh Masoudi

Settlement Worker in Schools (SWIS)

Coordinator, North Shore Multicultural Society





The North Shore Multicultural Society helps newcomers and their family learn about & understand the systems and services available in Canada



“Parental Knowledge and involvement supports a child’s best chance at success”



Potential barriers to success:



- Information
- Communication
- Involvement
- Inclusivity

Information – Needs: Logistics

- Structure of school system
- School day schedule/routine
- Curriculum
- Homework
- School Calendar
- Report cards / Parent-teacher meetings

Information – Needs: Structure

- School Code of Conduct
- Expectations of student
- Expectations of parent/guardian
- Rights & Responsibilities
- Discipline



Information – How Settlement & LINC Can Support Information Needs

- Settlement
 - Parenting Workshops / Programs
 - Referrals to SWIS
- LINC
 - Reading calendars
 - Access school websites
 - Activities / Homework related to both

Communication - Barriers

- Language
- Immigration Process: Survival Mode
- Parental lack of confidence
- Lack of support system
- Role Reversal: Parent-child

Communication - Issues

- Differences between school systems
 - Academic
 - Parental responsibility / Cultural understanding
 - Work habits
 - Social

Communication

- Settlement

Ways Settlement can support parents with their information needs regarding school:

- Develop “School Fact Sheet”
- Referrals to SWIS



Communication

- LINC

Ways LINC can support parent information needs:

- Read a report card
- Listen & leave phone messages
- Informing school about absences/vacation
- How to address concerns
- Parent-Teacher conferences
- Referrals to SWIS
- SWIS visits to LINC classrooms

Involvement

If parents have the information, the communication tools and know the expectations, they can participate and become better involved in their child's educational experience

What does that look like?

Involvement – Parent Action Plan

- Communicate with your child daily
- Get involved with PAC
- Volunteer at school events
- Attend parent events
- Support student involved events



Involvement

Settlement & LINC development of parental skills:

- Settlement
 - How to provide school with information (Change of address & other info)
 - Form filling guidance / Referrals to SWIS
 - Short term programs (eg Middle Years)
- LINC
 - Make a personal & family calendar
 - Form filling practice
 - Referrals to SWIS

Inclusivity

This can be a new concept for many new immigrant families.

With knowledge and understanding of the Canadian school system, there is better connection and success for both the parent & the student.

Inclusivity – Barriers

- Cultural acceptance & cultural differences related to the following can impact inclusivity:
 - Gender identity
 - LGBTQ2
 - Special needs
 - Physical disabilities
 - Learning disabilities, challenges,
 - Religious beliefs
 - Cultural, ethnic differences

Inclusivity – Barriers

- Lack of clarity with schools regarding child's educational history & challenges can impact success in school.
 - Academic (learning disabilities/challenges)
 - Physical
 - Mental (Anxiety, depression etc)
- See something, say something, do something

Inclusivity – Parental Action Plan

- Treat people the way you want to be treated
- Be upfront with school regarding child's needs

The values we teach, that which we instill in children, will have a direct impact in their relationships with their peers and society at large.



Inclusivity– Ways to Support Parents of children with special needs

- Settlement
 - Resources: community, gov't funding, financial support..
 - Form filling assistance
 - Encouragement to be child's best advocate
 - Support: representative on the phone
- LINC
 - Encourage use of normative language
 - What an inclusive classroom looks like
 - Explore Canadian values

Conclusion

Positive parenting experiences in first country are met with barriers and challenges when coming to a new country.

Our collaborative role is to give the tools and information to assist families to return to a place of successful parenting, in their new country.



Q&A with Speakers

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Jaswinder Sandhu,

Settlement Counselor, Progressive Intercultural
Community Services (PICS) Society





PARENTING IN A NEW COUNTRY

Presented by
Jaswinder Sandhu

**KEY
CONCEPTS**

**PARENTING
IN A NEW
COUNTRY**

PARENTING

**PROBLEM
ANALYSIS**

CONCLUSION

**RECOMMENDATION
AND SOLUTIONS**

Key Concepts

- Cultural shock
- Parent and child conflict
- Structure /Limits
- Integration with mainstream



Key Concepts

- Discipline variations from culture to culture
- Parental involvement in school





Challenges

- Adjusting to a new culture, faster pace
- Maintaining routines, setting limits, household chores
- Communication breakdown between parents and children



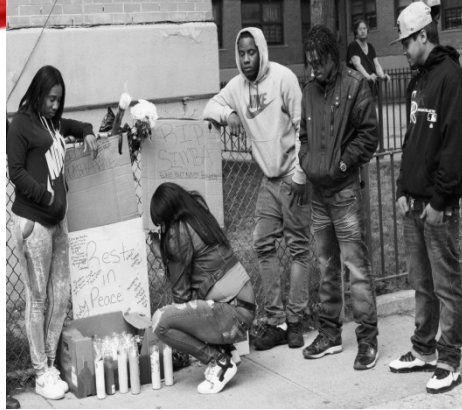
Challenges

- Different schooling system
(homework help, teacher interview)
- Stereotyping

Symptoms

- ✓ Language barriers
- ✓ Cultural shock
- ✓ Food preferences
- ✓ Fashion adaptability
- ✓ Education style
- ✓ Building new relationships
- ✓ Dating





Drugs
Gangs



Homework

Building
relationships



Listening



**Corporal
Laws**

Lecturing threats
criticism

consequences
- time out

Spanking



Problem Analysis

- Parents are unaware of possible conflicts
- Parents face their own settlement issues (job search etc.)
- Financial constraints (after school activities)
- Lack of awareness of parent support services



Behavioural and emotional problems newcomer families face

- Missing family and friends
- Isolation
- Difficulty meeting expectations
of working hard
- Socialization



Recommendations & Solutions

- Parents need to be aware of the services available in the community
- Parents need to participate in the PAC meetings
- Parents should take time to listen to the children's stories
- Parents should emphasize consistent routines
- Supervise TV, video games and screen time

Recommendations & Solutions

- Parents encourage open dialogue with their children
- Parents should welcome the children's friends and network
- Sharing one meal everyday can help build stronger families



RECOMMENDATIONS & SOLUTIONS

- Sharing household chores help the children take up responsibility
- Reward the children for their help
- Punitive measures in accordance with Canadian rules (no physical punishment, rather time out, no TV grounding or other consequences)





CONCLUSION

- Parent / child conflict in house because of culture difference is inevitable.
- For successful navigation, parents need to be equipped with skills & sources to handle conflict effectively and make the transition easy.

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Concluding Remarks

Julie Ship and Sabrina Ziegler
*A/Language Coordinator
and Settlement Coordinator*



- Please fill out the online evaluation form
- Sign up for Settlement Net:
<http://www.amssa.org/settlement-net/>



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