

Name of the organization: **Reach Child and Youth Development Society**

Reporting period: January – December 2025

REACH Child and Youth Development Society (REACH) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families and fostering children’s development. We provide a range of programs for children, including speech-language therapy (SLP), occupational therapy (OT), and physiotherapy (PT). These services help children build essential communication, motor, and daily living skills, while empowering families with the knowledge and tools to support their child’s progress in everyday activities.

1. Summary of actions and achievements for the reporting period.

The most recent research shows that children learn and practice skills most effectively in their home, school, and community environments, and when interacting with peers. Research also emphasizes the importance of family involvement in their children’s interventions, as parents can extend learning opportunities through everyday activities.

At the end of March 2025, we began offering new intervention programs to ensure our therapy models continue to reflect best practice standards as described above.

1-1 Therapy provided by an SLP, OT, PT. Some of therapy is also delivered by a therapy assistant (TA) who follows teaching instructions from an SLP, OT or PT. Intervention focuses on developing children’s:

- communication skills
- toy play and social interactions
- fine motor skills including coloring, cutting, and drawing
- self-help skills including dressing, toileting, eating
- gross motor skills including walking independently and playground skills.

Community Access has been a priority for REACH. In 2025 REACH provided summer programming for children needing 2 -1 adult support in the community. These programs build children’s community integration skills (such as regulation, taking the bus, communication) and allow them to access leisure activities such as bike rides, swimming and trips to water parks. Our partners include Special Olympics, Kayaking, Delta Gymnastics, and the City of Surrey.

Parent Coaching to help parents develop the knowledge and skills for to teach their child and providing opportunities for practice during home and community activities.

Group therapy where children learn in groups of 2 to 3 or larger. Groups focus preparing children for Kindergarten by developing their early concept/academic skills, social interactions, emotional regulation and executive functioning.

In April and May 2025, physiotherapists provided a therapy group , “**Fundamental Movement Skills**” Children in the group practiced skills requiring balance, coordination and endurance.

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These intervention models are cost effective allowing more children to be served. They have been well received by families and have shown excellent clinical outcomes.

2. Statistics (2025)

In 2025, the program served 429 children with many receiving support from multiple therapies. SLP supported 222 children, OT 127, and PT 80. Waitlists reflect the continued demand for services.

Children Served:



Discipline	Children Served 2020	Children Served 2021	Children Served 2022	Children Served 2023	Children Served 2024	Children Served 2025
SLP	134	116	146	144	238	222
OT	95	90	135	90	141	127
PT	60	61	75	78	91	80
Totals	289	267	356	312	470	429

Average Number on Waitlist:



Discipline	Average Number on Waitlist 2020	Average Number on Waitlist 2021	Average Number on Waitlist 2022	Average Number on Waitlist 2023	Average Number on Waitlist 2024	Average Number on Waitlist 2025
SLP	46	54	70	74	61	47
OT	36	50	52	49	54	35
PT	3	7	7	10	7	4
Totals	85	111	129	133	122	86

Aggregate hours dedicated to the provision of service in 2025

Based on a 35-hour work week, the full-time employee equivalents (FTEs) for the therapies program were as follows:

	SLP	OT	PT	TA
MCFD funded	3.54	1.74	0.5	2
City of Delta, Gaming, Fundraising funded	0.46	0.37	0.5	0.45

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3. Applying an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) lens

Our early intervention therapies program is committed to ensuring equitable access to services for all families, regardless of their background, language, or cultural identity. We recognize the diversity within our community and also the increased impact on families of the intersectionality of poverty, racialization, disability (children and parents), and new immigrant status. We continue to actively implement measures to reach and support populations dealing with these issues in meaningful ways.

Community Outreach and Family Groups:

Support groups serve as a bridge to introduce families to available services and help them understand their child’s developmental needs. These support groups also help marginalized families whose culture stigmatizes disability by providing education and peer-peer parent support.

- REACH facilitates IDP drop-in family groups where therapists participate to provide guidance and early intervention support to parents.
- We have dedicated parent groups in English and in Punjabi. The Punjabi Parent to Parent Support Group currently has over 250 families
- REACH also provides support groups for families with children with Down Syndrome, FASD, ADHD and complex behaviors.

Family Navigator Program:

This program, available in both English and Punjabi, helps families understand and navigate the community-based resources and support systems available to them.

Language and Interpretation Support:

We recognize language as a key barrier for many families and ensure that translation and interpretation services are available. By providing culturally appropriate and understandable services, we minimize barriers and maximize the effectiveness of our interventions.

Staff training

Our staff receive annual training to ensure that our services are trauma informed and culturally sensitive.

Community Workshops

In 2025 REACH provided workshops to community programs wishing to increase their knowledge on how best to accommodate and interact with individuals with neurodiversity. Our partners include Delta Police, Surrey Museum, City of Surrey and Mosaic Translation Services.

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Diverse Staffing Approach:

Our hiring practices prioritize linguistic and cultural diversity among staff, which enables us to better serve families from various backgrounds. Having team members who speak multiple languages fosters trust and facilitates clearer communication between therapists and families. Through these efforts, we strive to create an inclusive and equitable service environment where all families, regardless of their racial, ethnic, or linguistic backgrounds, feel supported and empowered in their journey of early intervention. By continuously assessing and enhancing our outreach strategies, we remain committed to serving our diverse community effectively and ensuring that no family is left behind.

4. Emerging challenges, needs and trends

The certification of Reach under the Health Sciences Association Union in 2024 brought the benefits of improved compensation to our staff, but the shortage of therapists remains a persistent challenge across the province. The demand for services continues to outpace available professionals, a challenge that we have sought to address in part by the increased use of teaching assistants, parent coaching and increased group intervention.

Unionization requires REACH to provide the staff wages as they are identified in the collective agreement and to provide annual cost of living increases. Without additional funding to offset this increased cost, REACH may have to reduce fundraised staffing in the future.

Additionally, within the current economic climate, an increased number of REACH families are facing employment, housing and food security issues.

While there is some pending investment by the provincial government into children's services, the demand for services remains far greater than the resources available.

5. Additional Notes

REACH specializes in supporting children with complex needs (autism, significant behaviour challenges, Down Syndrome, other syndromes and medical conditions where children and youth have identified mental health and developmental needs, children with palliative conditions). These children have few opportunities to access the community activities that are available to peers due to their high support needs.

REACH would welcome an opportunity to build on the work we have started by partnering with the City of Delta to provide expanded volunteer staff supports and increased adaptive programs for these children so that they can more fully participate in their community.

Annual Report – Service Agreement with the City of Delta (File Number: **9255 – 10**)

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6. Request for next year

Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 are attached.

REACH will continue to provide therapy services to children in the community of Delta. These services include assessments, individual program planning and intervention, parent support and education and coordination with other service providers. REACH will also continue to strive to find creative ways to manage waitlists and provide services to as many families as possible given our resources.

REACH requests the continuation of the City of Delta’s annual grant of \$50,274 plus a 3% increase to cover anticipated cost of living union wage increases to staff for a total of \$51,782.

The City of Delta’s annual grant enables REACH to access a further \$100,000 annual funding (2026/2027 FY) for therapy services from the Gaming Commission.