

After 3 Years: Learning Through Accompaniment

*Workshop for Early Childhood Development Centres
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Winning Conditions



In local communities

- ❖ Leadership of the people who make up the group
- ❖ Maturity and commitment of the partners
- ❖ Voluntary approach

In our organization

- ❖ **The *Avenir d'enfants* accompaniment approach:**
 - ❖ AE's flexibility
 - ❖ AE's position as a lever
 - ❖ Accompaniment by the agent

To illustrate these results:

Here is the story of a local community supported by Avenir d'enfants



Who?

Partners of the Pierre-de-Saurel childhood-family intersectoral table

- ❖ Discussion forum that has existed since 1997
- ❖ Territory: central city and several rural villages
- ❖ Very diversified representation



The Partners report the same findings

- ❖ Waiting list of over 1½ years for speech therapy: unacceptable
- ❖ Difficulty reaching vulnerable families spread over a vast territory with no access to public transit



They decided to:

- ❖ Reflect on the causes
- ❖ Reassess their approach and develop their complementarity to implement innovative solutions focused on families and their children, wherever they live in their community



PRIORITIES

Improve language and communication skills in children aged 0-5 years

Support individual and collective empowerment

Playing with words

Community speech therapy

Family facility



Playing with Words

Situation in the sector :

- ❖ Long waiting list for CSSS speech therapy services
- ❖ Parent-child dyad program (10 workshops) offered by the family community organization
- ❖ History of collaboration between CSSS workers, speech therapists and the family community organization (13 years)



Playing with Words ...

Action :

- ❖ Develop collaboration between the organizations in the sector
- ❖ When a child is placed on the waiting list: automatic referral to the family community organization for workshop registration, to get the parents and child started as soon as possible
- ❖ Improve the workshops by collaborating with a CSSS remedial teacher
- ❖ Presence of the speech therapist at the workshops and individual meetings with the therapist once the workshops are completed (for prevention)

Community Speech Therapy

Situation in the Sector

- ❖ Early childhood workers have few language tools to use with children presenting language delays

Action:

Hiring a speech therapist allows the partners to:

- ❖ Call on 16 language strategies
- ❖ Create the tool tree
- ❖ Develop training
- ❖ These strategies: developed by the speech therapist and a community of partners



Family Facility

Situation in the Sector

- ❖ The partners want to reach more vulnerable families with young children on their territory
- ❖ They want to foster personal and collective empowerment
- ❖ The Quebec government declared one municipality on the territory as devitalized

Objective:

- Offer a place where they can meet without restrictions or pre-set rules

Winning Conditions for the Facility

- ❖ Important to go where the families are, not have them come to us
- ❖ Create a space families can trust and where they know they will not be judged
- ❖ Use opportunities in local life to develop parent empowerment

Signs of its success

- ❖ During the organization of their first event: a Christmas party
- ❖ Nearly 90 people attended, visited the facility and the majority of them now frequents it

