

Qualifications

VAP: All VAP workers at VCAPCC have an undergraduate degree or Master's Degree from a recognized university and a minimum of two years of work experience in a related field of social, human studies or justice and have developed special expertise in supporting children and youth involved in the criminal justice system.

Counselling: All therapists at the VCAPCC have a Master's Degree or equivalent education level and a minimum of two years of working with children and youth in a related field. Therapists are knowledgeable about child abuse issues and have taken part in specific trauma and abuse focused training. Our therapists have provided training to others in the field and work collaboratively with other community programs

Accessing Services

Services are free for children and youth under 19 and their families. Referral for services typically occur due to child abuse problems and trauma from abuse or from witnessing family violence.

Referrals come from:

Ministry of Children and Family Development, Victim Services, Police or RCMP, School Counsellors, Family Doctor, Self/Family, Others

Families may refer themselves by calling the office at **250-385-6111**,

Referrals to the Victoria Child Advocacy Centre at **778-265-8111** or **Victoria CAC Coordinator** at **250-634-3923**

Your Part in Abuse Prevention

Educate yourself on ways to protect your children and be sure to teach them *safety skills* around child abuse. You can become a volunteer helping to promote awareness and support prevention and education in your community and local schools.

When a Child Discloses Abuse

The most important thing to do is to let the child know that they are not at fault and that you are there for them. Stay calm and listen carefully. Do not attempt to ask questions or 'interview' the child - this will be done by police or a child welfare worker.

Let the child know you are sorry this happened to them and that you are glad that they were able to come to you with this information. Lastly, explain to them you will need to tell an adult whose job it is to help children when these types of things happen.

Making a Report

In B.C., it is mandatory for any person to report information if they believe a child or youth has been abused, neglected or likely to be harmed.

If you know or suspect any of the above may be happening you must make a report to either:

- Ministry of Children and Family Development
1-800-663-9122
- The 24-Hour Helpline for Children **310-1234**
- Local Police **911**



Victoria Child Abuse Prevention & Counselling Centre

Mary Manning Centre

Contact Us

**210 - 1175 Cook Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 4A1**

Phone: 250-385-6111

Fax: 250-386-8111

E-mail: admin@vcapcc.com

Visit us on the web:

www.vcapcc.com or

www.marymanningcentre.com

Helping Children Heal



About Us

Child abuse hurts the child, the family and society. It is not just an individual problem but a family and social problem. Society, including each community, has an obligation to respond to the problem of child abuse. The Victoria Child Abuse Prevention & Counselling Centre (formally the Mary Manning Centre) is a non-profit organization providing a response in our community.

We Believe

Children and families have the capacity to heal;

Children and families hurt by the crime of child abuse have the right to receive help to recover from their hurt;

Child abuse is not just an individual problem but a family and social problem;

The Victoria Child Abuse Prevention & Counselling Centre (VCAPCC) can help children, youth and their families in that healing process.

In collaboration with schools and other agencies, VCAPCC provides child abuse prevention and education materials, training and presentations in the community.

Helping Children Heal

Philosophy of Treatment

Our philosophy is that children, youth and their families have the capacity to heal from the effects of child abuse and maltreatment when appropriately supported by their family, community and through the services they receive.

The philosophy and principles of service and treatment support children, youth and their families in:

- Dealing with the effects of sexual abuse/trauma and other forms of maltreatment
- Diminishing future long-term impact
- Decreasing the risk for future abuse

Trauma-informed principles of acknowledgement, safety, trust, choice and control, compassion, collaboration, strength-based and relationship form the basis for trauma-specific intervention. An understanding of the intersection of neuroscience and trauma also informs treatment planning. Clinical staff utilize individualized plans, interventions and referral that supports the child or youth's ability to heal mentally, physically, developmentally, culturally, spiritually, behaviourally and emotionally.

What children have to say:

"Mary Manning Centre has helped me go from all black to all colourful."

– 7 year old girl

"Coming to Mary Manning Centre made a total difference...my life changed upside down. I feel good. It helped me forget my bad memories."

– 8 year old boy

Programs/Services

Victoria Child Advocacy Centre

The Victoria CAC program provides two forensic interview rooms for police and child protection interviews, as well as victim services through the *Victim Assistance Program* for child and youth victims of crime and for those who are required to be a witness. The Victoria CAC is located in the Victoria Community Response Centre. The Victoria CAC will provide a multi-disciplinary coordinated approach to working with children, youth, and caregivers in child abuse cases. This will ensure that a child-focused, trauma-informed practice can begin as soon as possible.

Victim Assistance Program (VAP)

Information and support is available to child and youth victims, as well as witnesses and family members throughout their involvement in the criminal justice process.

Individual and Family Counselling

Child and youth victims generally participate in individual counselling sessions which may include their parent or caregiver. Group counselling is offered based on availability and client need.

Sexual Abuse Intervention Program (SAIP)

This program is designed for children where sexual abuse is suspected or confirmed and/or for children under 12 with sexual behaviour problems.

Youth with Sexual Behaviour Problems Program (YwSBP's)

Referral from the gate keeper at Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) allows youth 12-18 to access Youth with Sexual Behavior Problems Program.