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NEWS RELEASE

For a child, the emotional trauma of a stay in the hospital or even a visit to the doctor or dentist can outlast the physical problem; and a Cariboo College instructor is now coordinating an effort to bring to parents and professionals in the Kamloops area a program designed to ease this type of stress.

"Medical Mysteries Exposed for Children and Adults" is the title of the presentation scheduled for Cariboo College on Tuesday evening June 10, according to Mike Lawrance, Nursing instructor whose specialty is pediatric care.

"Surgical masks, blood pressure cuffs and hypodermic needles, all in a strange setting with unfamiliar people, can be terrible things to a four-year-old," Lawrance says. "But the Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals has come up with some workable techniques to reduce the trauma effect."

Two representatives from the Vancouver branch of the association will demonstrate and explain these techniques to parents, teachers and other interested persons as well as to physicians, nurses and other professional people at the June 10 session.

They are Mrs. Mary Ann Ace, child psychologist, and Mrs. Dianne Wallace, pediatric nurse. They will also conduct slide presentations and workshops at Royal Inland Hospital and at schools and day care centres during their two-day visit to Kamloops.

There is no charge involved. The project is funded by the ACCH, Lawrance said.

The June 10 session begins at 8 o'clock in Room 103E of the College.

If sufficient interest is shown, steps may be taken to form a branch of the ACHH in Kamloops, according to Lawrance.

"Research has shown," he said, "that children who have had an advance positive exposure to medical procedures are able to cope with hospital-related stress better than other children. If it is handled with understanding and know-how on the part of parents, a hospital stay can bring parents and child closer together."

The program is also aimed at upgrading hospital routines and procedures to meet the needs of children and their families more effectively, he added.

Further information can be obtained from Lawrance at 374-0123 or, in the evening, at 374-7476.

C.W.F. Bishop, College Affairs Manager