



July 31, 2008

Advisory Regarding the Use of Weighted Blankets for Children

Dear families and service providers:

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has received information from the Autism Society of Canada regarding a potential suffocation risk of using weighted blankets with children. Weighted blankets are manufactured and sold as a therapeutic approach to calming children with autism, or others with sensitive sensory systems. Quebec Chief Coroner Dr. Louise Nolet, issued a report in June 2008 following the investigation into the death of a child in that province. She advises that specific recommended practices be followed in order to minimize the danger from the use of weighted blankets.

If you have a weighted blanket please contact your child's Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist and request that he or she review the safe and appropriate use of the blanket with you.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Karen Bopp, MCFD Children and Youth with Special Needs Senior Behaviour Consultant through ServiceBC at 1-800 663-7867 or by email at Karen.Bopp@gov.bc.ca.