



Port Alberni Association for Community Living

PAACL NEWS

CYSN PROGRAM STRONG & POSITIVE THROUGH TRYING TIMES!

This program promotes both inclusivity and accessibility through the supports provided utilizing a family centered approach while focusing on the needs of the child and youth. The supports that the CYSN program are vast and include, but are not limited to, recreational activities, life skills, social skills and building personal relationships with the children and youth served. These activities are based on an Individual Service Plan where goals are created. Once this is complete the Family Support Workers, Kirstyn and Michael, get to work and put their creativity skills to work to accomplish these goals in a fun and engaging way for the children and youth.



Michael in Millennium Falcon

COVID 19 brought about unique challenges in supporting children and youth with all the new physical distancing rules, that came about, but that didn't stop our family support workers, they happily took on this new challenge and didn't let it stop them from providing the very best support possible while maintaining safe supports.

From April 1, 2020 to June 8, 2020, they provided 517 entertainment packages to children and youth that were suddenly at home all day. Before COVID 19 the program had a successful interactive gaming group, the teens love this program, not allowed to get together anymore. Not a problem, with a lot of research and learning an online interactive Star Wars game was created and is run over Zoom, and is a huge success!!

During this time we started a vegetable garden, and with a generous grant we were able to expand the garden from four planter boxes to seventeen planter boxes, two



archways, a wheelchair accessible planter, a herb garden and many smaller plants and trees. This garden allows us to

focus on developing life skills, but also introduce the ability to talk about nutrition, and education about where our food comes from while providing fresh vegetables to our families supported through our program. The youth who are already involved with this project so far have been so excited and intrigued

throughout the process and have had the opportunity to share vegetables that they have grown from seed with their own families.

