



eConnect

Connect Parent Group via Videoconferencing

Supporting sustainable access to an evidence-based group intervention for families in rural communities and small towns

Research initiative supported by:

Simon Fraser University
Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre
Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Why eConnect?

What is eConnect?

eConnect is a modified version of the Connect Parent Group. It is delivered from a host site to several satellite sites in real-time via videoconferencing.

eConnect is helpful for families in rural communities and small towns. It makes it easier for them to access the service they need. It can help to improve parents' and youths' mental health and relationships. It may also reduce a feeling of isolation and increase a sense of connectedness across communities.

eConnect is helpful for service providers like you as well, because it can make it much easier for you to offer Connect in your community. It can also help to strengthen your relationship with other agencies or organizations in the province.

How does eConnect work?

The content of Connect is not changed in eConnect, but how the group is formed and delivered is different. The group facilitators host the group online from the host site. Parents get together each week at an appropriate location to join the group online. This location is arranged by local organizations like yours. In each community, one member of the local organization serves as the local coordinator for eConnect. The local coordinators are trained or certified Connect facilitators. They are responsible for recruitment and setup. They are also present for all the group sessions to help the group run smoothly. We will provide training to local coordinators and other personnel involved to increase their comfort with eConnect.

Is there a research component to this?

Yes! This eConnect project is part of a broader program evaluation study by Simon Fraser University and the Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre. We will evaluate service providers' and caregivers' experiences with eConnect. Managers and staff at all organizations involved will be invited to take part in the study. eConnect group participants will also be invited to take part in the study. Your feedback is important. It will help us improve this innovative program for both service providers like you and caregivers.

What is needed to bring eConnect to my community?

- One trained or certified Connect facilitator
 - 3+ caregivers of pre-teens or teens (ages 8-18) who can attend the group
 - Internet connection (≥1.5 Mbps download and upload)
 - A computer with speaker and an operating system compatible with Zoom
 - A webcam and microphone (optional)
 - A large TV or monitor (optional)
- ★ Please visit the eConnect webpage below for more details.

To learn more, please visit <http://connectattachmentprograms.org/econnect> or contact Lin Bao at lin.bao@gov.bc.ca or at 778-898-9268

