

# TRI-CITIES CHILDREN'S CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND ACTION PLAN



## The Rights in Action

Our community partners have been addressing each of the 12 Rights in all they do. There are many affordable and free programs in place that help children feel heard, make friends, feel loved, be safe, feel included and get engaged in exploring their creativity and intellect. Libraries, parks, pools, recreation centres, free programs and low cost programs and services are all at our fingertips. Some of the dedicated programs and initiatives that help children and their families are:

- MoreSports Afterschool Program, including adaptive sports
- Parent Support Circles and free parenting classes
- Library Story Times & science workshops
- Drop-in recreation programs
- Unplug & Connect
- Beyond the Bell
- StrongStart
- Play Box
- Live 5-2-1-0
- New Beginnings
- Wildlife awareness programs
- Childcare Resource and Referral
- Multicultural Family Drop-in Resource Program
- Community Prevention through Environmental Design



Including children in decision-making builds an inclusive community that reflects children's needs, goals and dreams. Cities collaborate with SD43 to get children's views when planning parks. Our schools are also working with kids to facilitate making their own decisions towards learning.

Keeping costs low and funding others is also a priority. United Way of the Lower Mainland funds programs and research that directly assists children in our community. Cities provide funding to groups working with kids, such as Scouts. Our Cities also look at ways to build affordable housing.

There is so much our community is doing. We encourage you to check in with Tri-Cities Early Childhood Development, Tri-Cities Middle Childhood Matters, Ministry of Children and Family Development, School District 43 and your City to find out more.

- 1. THE RIGHT TO HAVE A VOICE**
- 2. THE RIGHT TO BE LOVED & HAVE A FAMILY**
- 3. THE RIGHT TO HAVE FRIENDS**
- 4. THE RIGHT TO BELONG**
- 5. THE RIGHT TO HAVE PEACE & SAFETY**
- 6. THE RIGHT TO HAVE A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT**
- 7. THE RIGHT TO HAVE A HOME**
- 8. THE RIGHT TO HAVE SPACE FOR RECREATION & PLAY**
- 9. THE RIGHT TO LEARN**
- 10. THE RIGHT TO BE RESPECTED**
- 11. THE RIGHT TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD & HEALTHY LIVING**
- 12. THE RIGHT TO EXPLORE, DREAM & CREATE**



# Four Rights - Focused Action

While there is already a lot being done in support of all 12 Rights, there is always something we can expand on. In collaboration with our Accord Partners, we identified 4 Rights that we felt could use our focused action. This will allow us to build on what is already being done with these Rights in schools, our community and in support services.



## The Right to Learn

We are continuing to:

- Improve on learning within the school district and outside of schools
- Collaborate to ensure all areas of learning are addressed across all platforms
- Bridge the gender gap in certain fields by offering specific programming, such as science for girls

## The Right to be Respected

We continue ensuring children feel respected by:

- Focusing on including 12 year-olds to contribute their voice and skills
- Continuing to proactively deal with gender issues
- Training staff on a continuous basis in all aspects of inclusion and respect

## The Right to Have Peace and Safety

We are committed to continuing efforts to:

- Deal with bullying
- Provide more access to safety education for parents
- Improve on walk-ability in our neighbourhoods and around the community
- Develop greater wildlife awareness

## The Right to Have Space for Recreation and Play

We are:

- Continuing to evaluate accessibility in parks, playgrounds and around the community for children with disabilities
- Exploring special needs helpers to include all children in activities, such as a sign-language interpreter for Story Time



United Way  
Lower Mainland