



Children and Youth Agenda

Vision

An Ottawa community committed to seeing all children and youth reach their full potential.

Mission

To work together with families, caregivers and members of the community to maximize the healthy development of children and youth.

PARTNERS



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Why is the Children and Youth Agenda Important for Ottawa?

There are 200,000 children and youth in the City of Ottawa (2006 Census). Every one of these children and youth deserves the opportunity to grow into healthy and thriving young adults who have the desire and capacity to contribute to the overall well-being of their community. In order to make this vision a reality, research stresses that equal attention and importance must be given to each developmental stage from prenatal to early adulthood.

In 2006, the City of Ottawa and United Way/Centraide Ottawa partnered to initiate a collaborative community approach to plan for the needs of Ottawa's children and youth, and their families through the creation of a Children and Youth Agenda (C&YA).

Goals

- ❖ Develop a framework for promoting healthy development - children and youth;
- ❖ Facilitate the creation of a community-led leadership table;
- ❖ Enhance community and City of Ottawa's staff ability to apply the framework.

The Framework for Promoting Healthy Child and Youth Development

Building on the Middle Childhood Matters' Framework, the C&YA project team developed a Framework for Promoting Healthy Child and Youth Development grounded in evidence-based research and through consultation with children, youth, parents, caregivers and service providers. The Framework focuses on four key elements for healthy child and youth development and their corresponding influencing factors that enhance children and youths' lives and contribute to their overall well-being. The purpose of the Framework is to create a common language and approach for promoting the healthy development of children and youth.

Four Key Elements for Promoting Healthy Child & Youth Development

Safe and Caring Environments

Home, schools, neighbourhoods, and communities that are safe and engaging.

Meeting Fundamental Needs

Food, shelter, clothing, safety, and health care.

Opportunities to Develop Competencies

Learning, recreation, social skills, peers and self-esteem.

Stable and Nurturing Relationships

Connections, interactions, and settings that instill a sense of belonging.

Moving Forward

The C&YA will be undertaking the following:

- ❖ Publish a booklet on the Framework - highlighting research on influencing factors from prenatal to early adulthood and tools on how to use the Framework;
- ❖ Continue to engage and evolve the Community Leadership Table
- ❖ Analyze and align of the work that various initiatives, networks and coalitions are doing across the age continuum
- ❖ Synergize with other local, provincial and national initiatives

For more information, please visit our website at www.ottawakids.ca/site/cya/