

# ***Helping Kids Grow Up Great***

*Compiled notes from afternoon discussion groups (attached)*

## **1. What did you like about today's event?**

- It's great to know the development assets
- Really enjoyed the event
- Great presenters
- Interesting speakers, although they each seemed to run out of time
- It was motivating and uplifting
- How it is important middle year age 5-18 years; they are so complicated mentally and physically
- The two speakers were great, very informative
- Food was good and nutritious
- Child care service
- Staff were friendly
- Know more about community services in New Westminster
- Tools to use to connect more with my child and other children
- Knowledge about programs/services in the community
- Information given by our guest speakers
- Having the chance to meet parents and professionals in the community
- All the guest speakers were great
- All the information sheets and packages
- Very informative
- The organization, participation of both speakers
- Seeing people who aren't normally involved here
- 20% of children have mental health issues and only 30% get services
- Guest speakers
- Quality of presentations was very useful information
- Participation of all people
- Networking/brainstorming/other parents and education professionals
- Feeling validated about my concerns when others shared them too
- Keith's speech and questions time
- The importance of middle childhood facilities in the neighbourhood
- The speakers, group work and questions asked at the groups and the handouts were very informative
- I got many important information and how to help my daughter grow up great
- Both parents and professionals were engaged and enthusiastic about discussions and speakers
- The knowledge provided on NW's plans and the speakers
- Keith's presentation made me realize what a difference one person can make

- Great speakers with answers about concerns to raising a middle school child

## **2. What were you surprised to learn today?**

- I learned a lot of things but nothing surprised me
- Grade 6 shift in optimism, very interesting
- Grade 6 boy info
- Differences between New West results and the rest of BC re: grade 6 self confidence etc. Middle School fallout?
- All the resources that are available within the community. Talking to parents and hearing their fears of their child or others spending time unsupervised
- How I can make a difference in my child and other children's lives
- 40 developmental assets
- There is a middle childhood committee
- Survey about kids in New West and how they really feel
- Information from the demographics maps
- The amount of children who are not involved in the community
- All the programs or resources that we need to get implemented in New West
- Didn't provide enough time for my child (listen) how important it is
- Gladly surprised of New West involvement with our kids and to see that people from after school day care are involved in these
- Middle age children need someone who goes crazy about them
- Demographics in New West
- Many resources I didn't know about
- Some of the statistics about the level of unhappy children
- All kinds of resources
- Many parents have thoughts as me
- Surprised to learn about the various services in the community
- Information about the 40 assets
- What a lot of services for residents in New Westminster! It is amazing
- Grade 6 data for New West
- Survival of the kindest
- The strong fear that parents have about leaving children unsupervised (fear of society?) lack of faith in humanity
- How much of an impact we have on children
- The asset framework and communication and learning and listening to kids

### **3. Do you have suggestions on what you think the Middle Childhood Committee should be focusing on?**

- We should more focus on listening to the kid
- I think the goals of the committee are very appropriate
- Better websites in New West for this kind of info
- Kids are online so young, make websites accessible to the kids so they can get info and get involved
- Marketing, having a family fun night
- Drug, alcohol, sexual abuse
- How to deal with undesirable behaviour
- How to encourage kids to be involved in community service
- Get them involved in physical activities and away from the internet and TV
- Take suggestions from today's seminar to improve community experience
- Importance of after school programs, acknowledgement of the one in our community
- More after school programs that could be available that are free and take place between 6-8 pm, Monday to Thursday
- Encourage and the chance for my 10 year old to listen and learn with this seminar
- After school daycares are a great asset for developmental assets
- Create more accessible and free programs for children
- Multicultural, educational and environmental programs
- Haring from more kids
- Reaching marginalized families
- Family education (dad's) or community
- Mentorship programs with professionals (musicians, artists etc) and seniors and teens
- More free after school activities (or low-cost)
- Focusing on Frade 1 – 7 students in elementary school and after school activities
- More information for new immigrant families
- More involvement with the Aboriginal community
- MARKETING! Community awareness of these forums/workshops etc.
- Need more boys and girl clubs, after school programs
- I'm sure we have a lot of teenagers or university kids who would like to volunteer to run these clubs
- Opening communication between elderly and kids (mentoring)
- Introduce programs, events and mentoring opportunities to bring the groups together

### **4. What's one thing the community can do to help your family?**

- The community can help to tell the resources or information that I can find ways to help kids

- I am a service provider
- More free after school programs
- Make programs easier to find, better websites etc.
- Use community resources
- Provide more of these kinds of workshops
- Provide more free activities after school
- Provide more free drop in facilities or opportunities for kids in the afternoon and evenings from Monday to Thursday
- Make all this information more easier to find
- Continue bringing awesome speakers like the ones we had today – thank you!
- Creating volunteer opportunities for families
- It takes a community to raise a child, I need my community to care and to be proactive to create the structures to help children succeed
- Make the community aware of all the resources
- Consider developmental assets also for children with disabilities
- Provide more green/gym spaces to have “free play”, better still, to have some (volunteer ?) supervision – AFTER school especially!
- The place which we can always go to talk and get counselling
- Education about different services offered in the community of New Westminster
- My daughter needs community activities
- Seek opportunities to support parents in building their informal neighbourhood networks
- Invite us to join the committee 😊
- Community input meetings?
- No child without program
- We need more sessions like this, maybe also in different languages
- Provide mentoring programs and volunteer activities for elderly and kids together