

New Westminster Children's Charter

This Charter sets out a vision for our children. It is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We have a duty to support families so that all children can be healthy, safe and participate fully in community life.

Right to Healthy Development: *a quality of life that supports their diverse physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual and social development.*

- ♥ All children require access to appropriate health care
- ♥ All children require high quality early childhood development opportunities and responsive primary and secondary education
- ♥ All children require access to quality child care
- ♥ All children require quality time with their families and other nurturing and positive role models
- ♥ All children require nutritious food, a healthy environment and a safe and comfortable place to live



Right to Be Safe: *protection from physical, psychological and emotional harm.*

- ♥ All children need a caring home environment
- ♥ All children need to live in safe, accessible neighbourhoods
- ♥ All children need protection from neglect, abuse and exploitation
- ♥ All children need the community to maintain a natural, healthy and sustainable environment

Right to Participation: *a childhood with dignity and respect that allows all children to reach their full potential.*

- ♥ All children need to participate in activities irrespective of ability, income, ethnicity, culture, spiritual and/or religious identity
- ♥ All children need to engage in play-based activities that promote creative expression and skill development
- ♥ All children need access to developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant programs that build confidence, communication skills and enthusiasm
- ♥ All children have the right to be a child: to play, to be happy, to have a voice and to be heard



The New Westminster Children's Charter is endorsed by the City of New Westminster and School District #40.



www.kidsnewwest.ca

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