

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



www.kidsnewwest.ca

The New Westminster Children's Charter was developed by Understanding the Early Years (UEY) New Westminster. UEY New Westminster is hosted by the Lower Mainland Purpose Society. UEY New Westminster is funded by the Government of Canada's Understanding the Early Years Initiative.

