

Marilyn Toft - Please make this a part of public record - City Council Oct 30 - Item CD 16.2 Middle Childhood Strategy

From: "Amanda Penrice" <amanda@middlechildhoodmatters.ca>
To: <clerk@toronto.ca>
Date: 10/30/2012 9:39 AM
Subject: Please make this a part of public record - City Council Oct 30 - Item CD 16.2 Middle Childhood Strategy
Attachments: Letter of Support Middle Childhood Strategy Item CD 16.2 for City Council Oct 30.docx

CD16.2.2

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Thank you.

Amanda Penrice

Coalition Coordinator

Middle Childhood Matters Coalition Toronto

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Pto →

**MIDDLE CHILDHOOD
MATTERS
COALITION TORONTO**

www.middlechildhoodmatters.ca

October 29, 2012

Dear Councillor _____,

The Middle Childhood Matters Coalition of Toronto (MCMCT) would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the City, and in particular Children's Services, for their tremendous work on the *Middle Childhood Strategy*. This is an important step in moving toward an integrated system that will provide improved access to high-quality, culturally appropriate and affordable out-of-school-time programs across Toronto for children six to 12 years.

Middle Childhood Matters Coalition Toronto is a group of 35 concerned social service agencies and community members who are committed to working together with parents since 2003 to increase access to high quality out-of-school programs for all children ages 6–12 in Toronto. Our vision is for Toronto to have a comprehensive, integrated, and accessible system of programs and services for all children to enhance their optimal development and to strengthen families.

MCMCT urges City Council, along with the General Managers of Children's Services and Parks, Forestry and Recreation, and the Community Development and Recreation Committee to adopt the *Middle Childhood Strategy*, and further, to build a comprehensive system for children six to 12 by integrating services. As a component of these services we fully support the After-school Recreation Care (ARC) program. We encourage the City to seek sustainable funding for this and other programs. We recognize the importance of having all levels of government working together to adequately fund out-of-school programming – indeed this funding is needed more than ever as Toronto families struggle to afford and access appropriate out-of-school care.

179,205 children age's six to 12 live in the City of Toronto. Yet many of Toronto's children struggle with obesity and mental health concerns, while one in three children in our city live in poverty, which is increasingly racialized. Better support and integration of programming opportunities for children will mean that more Toronto parents can be more productive between the hours of 3:00 to 6:00, knowing that their children are well-cared for and safe and that more children will have a place to go in their middle childhood years to develop into confident and dynamic youth with the skills and connections that help create amazing opportunities.

Our coalition would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss our work and the importance of out-of-school time programming for children aged six to 12. For more information about Middle Childhood Matters Coalition Toronto or to meet with us please contact our Coalition Coordinator, Amanda Penrice, at amanda@middlechildhoodmatters.ca or 647-462-5227.

We look forward to speaking to you further.

Best wishes,
Susan Neal
Chair, Middle Childhood Matters Coalition Toronto