

**How would Toronto look if it were planned through
the eyes of children?**

The City of Toronto invites Grade 4 and 5 classes to help explore this



Child-Friendly TO Classroom Participation:

Teacher's Package

An initiative of Toronto Public Health and Toronto Children's Services

2018

Child-Friendly TO: Classroom Participation

The City of Toronto invites grade 4 and 5 classes in Toronto to participate in a child-friendly civic engagement project through fun classroom activities

Children are important residents of Toronto with unique ideas and perspectives of their neighbourhoods and their city. At the heart of a new project called **Child-Friendly TO** is the goal to involve children when the City plans and makes decisions about Toronto.

Toronto Children's Services and Toronto Public Health are looking for grade 4 and 5 classes to share their ideas and opinions about their neighbourhood and their city to help inform how Toronto can be more child-friendly.

Ideas will be showcased in City Hall on November 19th and 20th as part of a [National Child Day](#) celebration** and summarized in a report to City Councillors.

To participate:

1. Go to the [Child-Friendly TO Teacher Sign-Up page](#) to sign up

2. Complete one or more of the classroom activities included in this package:

Feel free to alter the activities based on your classroom's interests and available resources.

The activities are designed to explore and provide student input into the following questions:

- a) Why is it important to listen to children when planning and running the city?
- b) What is a "child-friendly city"?
- c) What is already child-friendly in your city or neighbourhood?
- d) What isn't child-friendly in your city or neighbourhood?

3. Submit the students' work and your contact information

You may submit:

- Photos: submit photos of student's creations (please make sure the photo and text are clear)

OR

- The actual creation (e.g. drawn pictures, banner paper, etc...).

* While every effort will be made to display submissions from each classroom, this may not be possible if a higher than expected volume of submissions are received.

Submission Options:

Online: (Digital upload)	Child-Friendly TO Submissions	
Drop off: *Include the enclosed submission cover sheet (p.13)	Downtown	Children's Services South Office Metro Hall, 55 John St, Main Floor (King / John) Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 8am – 5pm Tues: 8am – 6pm
	East	East York Civic Centre 850 Coxwell Ave, Main Floor Security Desk Attn: Alexandra McKendry, Public Health Hours: Mon to Fri: 7:30am to 9:30pm Sat and Sun: 8am to 6pm Children's Services East Office 325 Milner Avenue, 9th Floor (Markham / Milner) Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 8am – 5pm Thurs: 8am – 6pm
	North	Children's Services North Office 1118 Finch Avenue West, Unit 4 (Finch West / Dufferin) Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 8am – 5pm Thurs: 8am – 6pm
	West	Children's Services West Office 1243 Islington Avenue, 11th Floor (Islington / Bloor West) Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 8am – 5pm Wed: 8am – 6pm
	Central	Children's Services Central Office 700 Lawrence Ave West, Suite 330 East tower entrance (Allen / Lawrence West) Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 8am – 5pm Tues: 8am – 6pm
By mail: *Include the enclosed submission cover sheet (p.13)	Dawn Barnum 55 John Street, 10 th Floor, Metro Hall Toronto, Ontario M5V 3C6	
Having trouble?	Contact Dawn Barnum at dawn.barnum@toronto.ca or 416-392-3594 to discuss other options.	

4. Receive updates on how the students' ideas are used

Participating classrooms will receive:

- photos of the displays in City Hall and a summary of comments about the submissions received by the City's Senior Leaders (December 2018)
- updates about how submissions are included in a report for City Councillors on Child-Friendly TO, the process that Councillors follow to review the report, and the final decision (Spring 2019).

Classroom submissions will be:

1. **On display (anonymously)** in the City Hall rotunda on November 19th and 20th during a National Child Day event.[†]
 - Displays will be viewed and discussed by City staff, including the City's most senior leaders.
 - This event will promote the importance of listening to children and will showcase ideas from students about how Toronto can become more child-friendly.
 - The display will be open to the public.
 - Photos of senior-level City staff viewing the displays will be shared with participating classes.
2. **Summarized in a Child-Friendly TO report to City Councillors** in the spring of 2019.
 - Updates about the report and how the students' submissions are used will be sent to participating classes to help them follow along in the process.

Timelines:

- Submissions must be received by **Tuesday, November 13th, 2018** to be included in the City Hall display[†] AND in the report to Council.
- Submissions received after this date will still be included in the report to Council. Final date for submissions is **Friday, December 14th, 2018**.

MORE INFORMATION:

Benefits for students and teachers:

- Participating classes will receive updates on how their submissions help inform the new 'Child-Friendly TO' project.
- Students can learn about how they are important residents who can influence the plans and decisions that shape their neighbourhood and city.
- Teachers may wish to use this opportunity to teach about how local government makes plans and decisions and the involvement of resident input in this process.

[†] While every effort will be made to display submissions from each classroom, this may not be possible if a higher than expected volume of submissions are received.

Privacy:

In order to maintain privacy, please ensure that children's submissions do not contain any identifiers such as students' full names.

QUESTIONS? Contact Dawn Barnum at 416-392-3594 or dawn.barnum@toronto.ca.

Want to go a step further? Help your students learn about their rights.

This project supports [National Child Day](#), which recognizes the inherent rights of children, as laid out in the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).

Classroom activities that help students explore and understand their rights are available at [Canada's National Child Day Information for Educator's webpage](#).

Activities

Objective: to explore and gather the students' ideas on:

- a) Why it is important to listen to children when planning and running the city
- b) What a "child-friendly city" is
- c) What is already child-friendly in their city or neighbourhood
- d) What isn't child-friendly in their city or neighbourhood

Why:

- Children are important residents with valuable and unique perspectives, ideas and experiences that have the power to change how we plan and make decisions.
- Classroom submissions will influence a new Child-Friendly TO project and the ideas submitted will be considered by Senior Leaders at the City and Toronto City Councillors.
- Participating classes will receive updates on how their ideas were reviewed by the City and how they are influencing change.

Definition for Teachers:

"A child-friendly city is a city, town, community or any system of local governance committed to improving the lives of children within their jurisdiction by realizing their rights as articulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In practice, it is a city, town or community in which the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programmes and decisions."

Children are experts in child-friendliness and we must listen carefully to them. Child rights includes the following: "You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously" (Article 12 [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#))

[For more information, please visit the child friendly cities website.](#)

Activities: Please select one of more of the following activities to complete with your class.

- Activity 1: Sentence starters
- Activity 2: Dream
- Activity 3: Map my world
- Activity 4: Photovoice

Activity 1: **Sentence starters**

Objective: For students to explore and share features of a child-friendly city from a kids' perspective.

Expected time: 30-40 min

Materials: markers, paper, worksheet (optional)

Introducing the concepts:

1. Discuss the theme of friendliness and how friendly people make the students feel. Then have the students relate their ideas of 'friendliness' to a city. Consider the people, the places, the things that happen there, etc... Discuss this as a 'child-friendly city'.

Suggested Teacher prompts:

- How do you know if a person is friendly? What do they do or say?
- How do you feel when you are around a friendly person?
- Do you think a city could be friendly too? Could a city make you feel the same way a friendly person does?
- What would a city that is friendly for children look like? What people, places, events, etc... would be there?

Completing the activity:

2. Choose to complete the activity as a class, in small groups or individually.
3. Choose to print the worksheet on the following page or encourage students to create their own using the sentence starters below. Encourage students to use words and drawings to express their ideas. Imagine a city that is friendly for all children! Tell us what it's like in this city.

In a Child-Friendly City...

- Kids feel...
 - Kids see...
 - Kids hear...
 - Kids do...
4. **OPTIONAL:** Have the students compare this 'child-friendly city' to their neighbourhood or city. What is different? What is the same? Document their answers either as a class, or in small groups, or individually.

Activity 1: Worksheet

Imagine a city that is friendly for all children! In this child-friendly city...

Kids feel...



Kids see...

Kids hear...



Kids do...

Activity 2: **Dream**

Objective: For students to share their ideas of what a child-friendly Toronto looks like.

Expected time: 30-40 min

Materials: markers, paper, worksheet (optional)

Introducing the concepts:

1. Discuss the theme of friendliness and how friendly people make the students feel. Then have the students relate their ideas of 'friendliness' to a city. Consider the people, the places, the things that happen there, etc... Discuss this as a 'child-friendly city'.

Suggested Teacher prompts:

- How do you know if a person is friendly? What do they do or say?
- How do you feel when you are around a friendly person?
- Do you think a city could be friendly too? Could a city make you feel the same way a friendly person does?
- What would a city that is friendly for children look like? What people, places, events, etc... would be there?

Completing the activity:

2. Choose to complete the activity as a class, small group or individually.
3. Choose to print the worksheet on the following page or encourage students to create their own using the statement below:

You are granted one wish to change something about Toronto to make it more child-friendly for all kids! What do you wish for? Draw a picture or use words to explain your ideas.

How would this wish make Toronto more child-friendly?

Activity 2 Worksheet

You are granted one wish to change something about Toronto to make it more child-friendly for all kids!

What do you wish for?

This wish would make Toronto more child-friendly because...

Activity 3: **Map my world**

Objective: For students to create a visual child-perspective map of their neighbourhood to explore and share aspects that are and are not child-friendly.

Expected time: 50-60 min

Materials: large roll of paper (maximum 2 feet by 3 feet), markers, stickers (red, yellow and green dots or smiley, neutral and sad faces)

Introducing the concepts:

1. Discuss the theme of friendliness and how friendly people make the students feel. Then have the students relate their ideas of 'friendliness' to a city. Consider the people, the places, the things that happen there, etc... Discuss this as a 'child-friendly city'.

Suggested Teacher prompts:

- How do you know if a person is friendly? What do they do or say?
- How do you feel when you are around a friendly person?
- Do you think a city could be friendly too? Could a city make you feel the same way a friendly person does?
- What would a city that is friendly for children look like? What people, places, events, etc... would be there?

Completing the activity:

2. Invite children to create a big picture of the public places in their neighbourhood and city that they visit regularly. Prompt children to include many types of places (e.g. parks, playgrounds, routes to and from school, libraries, community centres etc.).
3. Help children to label the spaces.
4. Once the picture is completed, prompt children to think about how they feel about these spaces. What is child-friendly? What is not child-friendly? How do they feel when they go to these places? Do they feel safe here?
5. Invite children to draw symbols or put stickers on the picture to show how they feel about each of the spaces.
6. OPTIONAL: Have the students suggest what would make their neighbourhood more child-friendly.

Activity 4: **Photovoice**

Objective: For students to use photos to explore and share aspects of their neighbourhood that are and are not child-friendly.

Expected time: 60-75 min

Materials: camera

Important: For privacy purposes, please do not include anything in the pictures that would identify the students or anyone else (e.g. faces, names, etc...). Pictures that include identifiable images of people cannot be used.

Introducing the concepts:

1. Discuss the theme of friendliness and how friendly people make the students feel. Then have the students relate their ideas of 'friendliness' to a city. Consider the people, the places, the things that happen there, etc... Discuss this as a 'child-friendly city'.

Suggested Teacher prompts:

- How do you know if a person is friendly? What do they do or say?
- How do you feel when you are around a friendly person?
- Do you think a city could be friendly too? Could a city make you feel the same way a friendly person does?
- What would a city that is friendly for children look like? What people, places, events, etc... would be there?

Completing the activity:

2. Ask the students to imagine that a family with three children has just moved to their neighbourhood. The children want to know if it's a good, child-friendly place for kids to live.
3. Ask the students to think about what they would show and tell these children. What spaces or things do the students feel are child-friendly? What spaces or things are not child-friendly?
4. Take a walk around your school or neighbourhood and invite the students to take photos of things and spaces they feel are or are not child-friendly. Use a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" in the photo to record this. Consider holding cards in front of the photo that briefly state what the picture is of and why it is/isn't child-friendly.
*Please do not include student faces in the photo.
5. OPTIONAL: ask the students to complete the photo activity around their neighbourhood as a homework assignment.

Teacher Submission Cover Form:

Please include this cover form if submitting by mail or drop-off.

Date of Submission:		School Board:	
School:			
Teacher: Name:			
Phone:			
Email:			
Grade:		Number of students that participated:	
Activities completed:		<input type="checkbox"/> Activity 1: Sentence starters <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 2: Dream	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Activity 3: Map my world <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 4: Photovoice	
Items submitted:		<input type="checkbox"/> Completed worksheets <input type="checkbox"/> Banner paper (e.g. maps) <input type="checkbox"/> Printed photographs	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (please specify)	
Please select your preference(s):			
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive photos of the display on November 19 and 20 (emailed December 2018)			
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive updates on report for City Councillors (emailed Spring 2019)			
<input type="checkbox"/> I <u>do not</u> want to receive photos or updates.			
Please tell us about your class' experience: <i>(please use the back if you need more space)</i>			
1. How much did the students enjoy participating in this initiative?			
1 Not at all	2	3 Somewhat	4 5 Loved it
2. What did the students like or not like?			
3. As the teacher, how much did you enjoy participating in this initiative?			
1 Not at all	2	3 Somewhat	4 5 Loved it
4. What did you like or not like?			
5. Please share any suggestions for improvement.			