

## CHILD FRIENDLY POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Child Friendly Policy Framework is made up of the following elements:

### VISION

Children in Toronto are valued, listened to and treated with respect.

Children in Toronto thrive because they live in safe, accessible, well-designed, healthy and nurturing communities.

Children in Toronto are acknowledged for cultural ways of knowing and are able to live their culture.

Parents, caregivers and communities feel included and supported to prepare for, take care of, and equip children for the best start in life continued into the middle years.

### VALUES

This Framework is built on the aspirational values that Toronto is a Child Friendly City where all children:

- Are healthy and resilient
- Experience equity with full human rights
- Feel their culturally specific understanding of health is valued and honoured
- Have voice and influence
- Are cared for, loved and nurtured
- Have a sense of belonging
- Are protected from harm and injury
- Are free from impacts of poverty and discrimination
- Create positive friendships and relationships
- Feel a sense of hope, self-worth and happiness
- Have opportunities and choice for lifelong learning and building skills
- Play and have fun in safe physical, social and virtual environments

### GOALS

#### Child Friendly Lens in all Policy

TPH will collaborate with other city divisions, community partners, school boards, and the Toronto Child and Family Network, to ensure that all policies consider the health impact and unique needs of children by:

- Identifying current and emerging issues related to child health, development and wellbeing
- Assessing the impact of decisions on children
- Collecting data about children in order to identify and address inequities
- Reviewing all policies that involve children to identify barriers and take a systemic approach to addressing them

#### Child Engagement

TPH and its partners will ensure a greater voice for Toronto's children and improve opportunities for their meaningful participation to build awareness and champion improvements by:

- Encouraging the participation of children to inform decision making
- Engaging with children on issues related to child health, development and wellbeing
- Collaboration across city divisions, their partners and communities on issues related to child health, development and wellbeing
- Developing capacity to effectively engage children in decision making

#### Services Fit for Children

TPH and its partners will provide services that meet the needs of children by enabling quality experiences that are child centered and take a holistic approach to healthy child development where:

- Services are inclusive and accessible to all children across the city
- Service providers address barriers to accessing services
- Services are affordable and responsive to adequately support the healthy development of children
- Services specifically respond to the developmental needs of early childhood and middle years
- Parents, caregivers and children are engaged in the decision making of the services they access