



Strategic Plan 2016-2019

Research Theme #2: Middle Childhood

Approximately 2,800,000 people live in Toronto, 180,000 of whom are children between the ages of 6 and 12 (2011 Census data). These are the children in middle childhood. School plays a significant role during these years, but much of a child's day is spent outside of the classroom without teacher or parental supervision.

Keeping children safe and engaged during out-of-school time is a critical concern for families. In Toronto, approximately 40% of parents of 6 to 12 year olds want their children in after-school programs; yet, only 13% of these children are being served. Care for children is often a patchwork of services that are not always accessible, affordable or appropriate to the age of the child.

In January 2014, the City of Toronto released the Toronto Middle Childhood Strategy, to address the need for high quality programs for middle childhood. The strategy aims for a system of accessible, high-quality before-and-after-school programs.

Toronto Public Library supports the Toronto Middle Childhood Strategy in many ways, including

- Providing after-school clubs and maker programs
- Creating inviting, vibrant physical and virtual spaces
- Integrating the latest technology
- Offering middle childhood programs across 100 branches

Question: What other programs or services should the Library develop for children in middle childhood?

Let us know what you think at: strategicplanconsultation@torontopubliclibrary.ca

Further Reading:

Toronto Middle Childhood Strategy

Developing a system of high-quality out-of-school-time programs for children ages 6 to 12.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2012/cd/bqrd/backgroundfile-50756.pdf>

Toronto After-School Programs: What Really Matters?

Toronto Children's Services, Braeburn Neighbourhood Place, and Boys and Girls Club partner to identify what families and program providers in Toronto value in after-school programs.

<http://www1.toronto.ca/City%20Of%20Toronto/Children's%20Services/Files/pdf/T/toronto-after-school-program-report.pdf>

Before and After School Program Locator

Find before and after school programs for school age children in your neighbourhood.

<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vnextoid=545bd9cb9ca1f310VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&vnextchannel=6d3e8ed34ce9e310VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>