



POLICY

It is Council policy that:

1. General

The City of Richmond acknowledges that quality and affordable child care is an essential service in the community for residents, employers and employees.

2. Planning

To address child care needs, the City will plan, partner and, as resources and budgets become available, support a range of quality, affordable child care:

- facilities
- spaces
- programming
- equipment
- support resources.

3. Partnerships

- The City of Richmond is committed to being an active partner with senior governments, stakeholders, parents, the private and co-operative sectors, and the community, to develop and maintain a quality and affordable comprehensive child care system in Richmond.
- Advise regarding establishing child care facilities for workers and students at institutions and workplaces (e.g., Richmond Hospital, Workers Compensation Board).
- To request the Senior Governments and other stakeholders to provide ongoing funding for affordable child care facilities, spaces, operations and programming.

4. Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC)

The City will establish and support the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee.

5. Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund

The City will establish and administer a Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund, to financially assist with:

- establishing child care facilities and spaces:
 - in City buildings and on City land,
 - in private developments
 - in senior government projects
- community partner projects.
- undertaking child care research (e.g., need assessments) and planning,
- acquiring sites for lease to non-profit societies for child care,
- hiring child care consultants and staff, as authorized by Council,
- providing child care equipment grants
- a variety of initiatives to achieve quality and affordable child care in the City.



6. Development Applications

To develop City child care policies and guidelines, and use Council's powers and negotiations in the development approval process, to achieve child care targets and objectives.

7. Child Care Grants Policy

Through City child care grants, support child care:

- facilities
- spaces
- programming
- equipment
- professional support.

8. Professional Child Care Support Resources

Support resources for child care providers as advised by the Child Care Development Advisory Committee and as the need requires and budgets become available.

9. Policy Reviews

- From time to time, review child care policies, regulations and procedures to ensure that no undue barriers exist to the development of child care.
- As appropriate, develop targets for the required number, type and location of child care services in Richmond.

10. Area Plans

Ensure that area plans contain effective child care policies.

11. Information

The City will, with advice from the Child Care Development Advisory Committee,

- generate, consolidate and analyze information to facilitate the development of child care facilities, programs and non-profit child care agencies;
- determine if any City land holdings are appropriate to be made available for immediate use as child care facilities;
- review and where appropriate, improve and provide City produced public information material on child care.

12. Promotion

- Declare the month of May "Child Care Month" and support awareness and fund-raising activities during that month.

13. Partnerships

- Employers
 - Encourage employer involvement in child care.
- Developers
 - Encourage the developers to provide land and facilities for child care programs throughout the City.
- Community Associations



- Encourage City staff and the Council of Community Associations to:
 - assess whether or not child care services can be improved in community centres,
 - provide enhanced child care programs in current and future community centres.
- Intercultural
 - Encourage the Richmond intercultural Committee to investigate and report on the child care concerns, needs and problems facing ethnocultural groups in the City.
- School Board
 - Co-ordinate CCDAC activities with the Richmond School Board.
 - Encourage the Richmond School District to involve schools in the provision of child care services.
 - Encourage child care centre facilities to be integrated with schools, as appropriate.

14. Child Care Facilities

- Encourage adequate child care centre facilities throughout the City where needed, particularly in each new community.
- Consider providing City land and facilities for child care programs throughout the City,
- Encourage child care program expansion through the enhancement of existing community facilities.