



CHILD CARE PLAN



December 2010

All children deserve to grow up in communities where they are nurtured so they may thrive.





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Child Care Services Working Group has been instrumental in guiding a multi-year consultation process with the West Vancouver School District, community agencies, community members, staff and Council to address immediate and long-term child care issues in the community.

The primary task of the working group was to come forward with an updated child care policy that supports the provision of adequate, quality, flexible and accessible child care in the community. In November of 2007, staff recommended that the draft Child Care Policy and other strategies identified by the Child Care Services Working Group be addressed through a Child Care Plan.

The Child Care Plan demonstrates a commitment to support quality child care for children now and in the future. The Plan focuses on improving and enhancing the local system of child care in the community so that families living in West Vancouver are supported and have access to a range of quality child care services necessary to thrive. The Child Care Plan is a dynamic document, with actions and priorities to be evaluated and implemented annually. There will be a full review of the overall Plan every five years.

The Child Care Plan considers child care to include family child care, licensed group care, child minding, specialized care, preschools, and school age programs for children from birth through to age twelve. Its focus is on supporting quality accessible programs and services that meet the needs of children and families in West Vancouver.

The implementation of this plan will not be the sole responsibility of Council. The Child Care Services Working Group determined that the best practice to deal with emerging child care issues is a collaborative approach. The Plan will inherently build community capacity as it requires strong and healthy partnerships with good communication to achieve its outcomes.

The Plan builds upon eight principles:

Principle 1 - A Community that supports its families supports children.

Principle 2 - Children are our future leaders.

Principle 3 - Quality child care in the community is essential.

Principle 4 - Good communication and integrated services enhance access.

Principle 5 - A hub model makes sense.

Principle 6 - Collaboration and partnerships are a best practice.

Principle 7 - Ongoing engagement and community consultation is essential.

Principle 8 - Values of equity, diversity and social inclusion must be embraced.

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Joanne McKenna, Chair, Child Care Services Working Group





The Child Care Plan addresses the long term child care needs of the community and ensures that child care services are considered as an integral part of long term planning for community sustainability.

It provides a framework with which to prioritize strategies and actions, maximize resources, establish timelines, and evaluate work programs and financial implications. The strategies contained in this Plan follow key recommended actions from the District's ***Blueprint for Social Responsibility and Change:***

1. Recognize social services as one of the municipal priorities.
2. Ensure resources distributed through the municipality are meaningful to residents.
3. Become a resource centre for information relevant to social services and establish a 'Community Services Information Hub' of non-profit social service agencies.
4. Establish mechanisms for monitoring community needs.
5. Build on the existing capacity in the community to increase awareness of social needs and foster a sense of responsibility and collaboration for social well being.
6. Make prudent use of resources to support long term sustainability of community social services.
7. Communicate with federal and provincial governments concerning the pressures on local resources in dealing with social services needs.
8. Work with organizations who receive a permissive tax exemption from the municipality to address emerging community social service needs.
9. Work with existing groups or foundations in the community to identify ways of securing funding for long term social services sustainability.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of the Child Care Plan was undertaken by the District of West Vancouver during 2009 – 2010 and was led by a Working Group of West Vancouver residents, and representatives from the West Vancouver School District, Vancouver Coastal Health, community agencies.

Councillor Michael Smith was the Council Liaison; and Anne Mooi, Director, Parks and Community Services and Leanne Sexsmith, Manager of Community Development, Youth and Families were the staff liaisons.

- Joanne McKenna (Resident, Working Group Chair)
- Robert Emlyn (Resident)
- Jane Kellett (West Vancouver Board of Education Trustee)
- Maureen Ciarniello (West Vancouver School District)
- Kitty Roberts (Vancouver Coastal Health)
- Maria Morisseau (North Shore Community Resources)
- June Maynard (North Shore Community Resources)

"Access to early childhood development opportunities creates a foundation for future well-being, quality of life and success for individuals and families. Thanks to the leadership of Council and our Child Care Services Working Group, we are responding to community priorities and keeping current by investing in our most important citizens – our children."

(West Vancouver Mayor Pamela Goldsmith-Jones)

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PARTNERS

District of West Vancouver

The District of West Vancouver plays a leadership role in bringing community partners together to address child care needs in the community. The municipality also plays an important role in ensuring that land use and planning functions support community needs in this area.

West Vancouver Civic Site Child and Family Hub

The West Vancouver Child and Family Hub at the Civic Centre Site links information and resources on child care, early childhood development, health services, and recreation and family support programs in one central location. Hub Partners include the West Vancouver Community Centre and Community Services, West Vancouver Family Place/Hollyburn Family Service, Vancouver Coastal Health, West Vancouver Memorial Library, Gordon House Child Care Centre, West Vancouver School District 45, and North Shore Community Resources.

West Vancouver School District

The West Vancouver School District is committed to providing students with a wide variety of innovative, high-quality programs and services to ensure continuous improvement in student achievement. They recognize the positive impact that quality child care and early learning programs and services have on academic success. The School District is in continuous dialogue with community partners to provide and support the delivery of these services to West Vancouver children.

Vancouver Coastal Health

Through education, collaboration and regulation, Community Care Facility Licensing protects the health and safety of children in child care facilities. They are responsible for issuing licenses to community care facilities and ensuring compliance with regulations.

North Shore Community Resources

North Shore Community Resources' Child Care Resource Program is a community based non-profit service that supports parents, child care providers, and community partners. Programs and services include child care referrals, maintenance of database and statistics, library resources, networking, information on start-up, training opportunities, consultations on a variety of child care issues, advocacy and a community planning for child care and family support services.

Provincial and Federal Government

The Provincial Government partners with child care providers to create and support the child care system in BC. In Canada, education and child care fall primarily under provincial jurisdiction; with the federal role focused primarily on the transfer of funds to provincial and territorial governments for early childhood programs and services.

Community

Parents, employers, and child care providers all have an interest and role to play in advocating for and supporting quality child care in the community.

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POLICY STATEMENT

The District of West Vancouver is committed to delivering a high quality of life, and bringing people together at all stages of their lives to create a strong, diverse and vibrant community.

Both private and non-profit child care is a fundamental component of the social service fabric of the community. For families that access child care programs at different ages and stages of their lives – whether to give their young child a preschool opportunity or to find day care while parents are working – child care programs play a significant role in the social, emotional and intellectual development of their children.

Access to quality child care affects the well-being and quality of life for families with children as well as their network of extended family and support. It is essential in creating a healthy, well balanced community.

Vision Statement

A community with high quality child care services that respond and adapt to diverse needs.

GOALS

Goal 1

Build on existing community capacity to advance integrated, accessible, quality services for children and families.

Goal 2

Improve the system of collaboration by establishing partnerships between community, schools and service providers through written agreements, effective communication, shared decision making and leadership.

Goal 3

Support the development of a local system of quality child care services that offer families flexibility, affordability and choice.

"Children are the rock on which our future will be built" (Nelson Mandela)

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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Principle 1 – A Community that supports its families supports children

Children are valued at all stages of development and thrive within families and communities that can meet their physical and developmental needs and can provide security, nurturing, respect and love. Families need to have access to support services and quality programs that enhance individual and family well being.

Principle 2 – Children are our future leaders

The manner in which a society cares for its children is a reflection of what that society values. Children are the future leaders of Canada and the supports and opportunities that they have as children will impact our collective futures.

Principle 3 – Quality child care in the community is essential

The early years are critical to the development and future well-being of the child. The quality of early childhood environments creates the context in which children can thrive. Children who experience high quality care have higher scores on achievement and language tests, show better social skills and fewer behavioural problems than children who experience low quality care. This provides the foundation for future success in life.

Principle 4 – Good communication and integrated services enhance access

Access to a range of high quality services supporting parental and non-parental care arrangements (e.g. child care, family place, community recreation, and library) is essential for a healthy community and ensures equal and fair opportunities for children and families. Access is enhanced through integrated systems of communication and services.

Principle 5 – A hub model makes sense

The hub model and an integrated system of childcare has been identified as the best way to meet existing unmet needs as this model supports the provision of quality accessible child care in the community that is linked to other family support services.

Principle 6 – Collaboration and partnerships are a best practice

The most effective and efficient approaches to meeting the needs of children require collaboration amongst schools, child care services, and community organizations. Collaboration enables the child to receive a range of services from different programs without repeated registration procedure, waiting periods, different philosophies, human resource practices and funding systems.

Principle 7 – Ongoing engagement and community consultation is essential

Child care and family needs are continually evolving. To ensure needs are being addressed effectively, strategies should be reviewed and adapted regularly.

Principle 8 – Values of equity, diversity and social inclusion must be embraced

Creating a welcoming and inclusive child care environment that supports diversity is a fundamental value of social responsibility.

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OBJECTIVES

Objective 1

Facilitate solutions that address both the immediate and emerging need for high quality child care services and facility space.

Objective 2

Pursue and promote funding opportunities for new child care in the community through strategic partnerships.

Objective 3

Support quality child care services in the community through municipal policies, regulations and guidelines.

Objective 4

Develop a communication strategy that 1) ensures information on child care is readily available to the community, 2) facilitates access to information on other services that support the healthy development of young children, and 3) engages the broader community and private sector in advancing opportunities for child care services.

Objective 5

Support professional development opportunities and information on best practices in early childhood care and education.

Objective 6

Create opportunities for parent education on early childhood development and healthy parenting.

Objective 7

Provide leadership in seeking resources, planning, development, coordination, problem solving and monitoring of child based services in West Vancouver.



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OBJECTIVE 1

Facilitate solutions that address both the immediate and emerging need for high quality child care services and facility space.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- 1.1 Work with School District 45, community partners and the private sector to identify sites for additional child care facility space in West Vancouver.
- 1.2 Work with School District 45, community partners and the private sector to support the creation of Child Care Hubs in West Vancouver.
- 1.3 Monitor and respond to the child care needs of West Vancouver families through municipal and community partnerships.
- 1.4 Secure land for facility space as a community benefit in new developments.

SUCCESSES TO DATE

- 1. Funded the North Shore Child Care Needs Assessment in partnership with the City and District of North Vancouver. (2007)
- 2. Completed an analysis of School District, Municipal and Community sites to identify potential opportunities for child care hubs and other child care services. (2007)

- 3. Completed a statistical analysis of existing supply and types of child care spaces in West Vancouver. (2007; 2008)
- 4. Moved forward on development of Child Care Hubs; a Child Care Plan, and the inclusion of child care in the District's Public Amenity Contribution Policy. (2007-2010)
- 5. Applied for and received capital funding from the Ministry of Children and Family Development to develop two child care centres and a child care hub at the Civic Centre site and Ambleside Park. (2008)
- 6. Created a successful model for after school recreational programs in elementary schools in partnership with School District, Middle Childhood Matters and the District of West Vancouver. (2008/09)
- 7. Successfully implemented the West Vancouver Child and Family Hub at the Civic Centre Site to link child care, early childhood development, health services, and recreation and family support programs. (2009)
- 8. Opened the newly renovated Gordon House Child Care Centre on the Civic Centre Site to provide an additional 20 child care spaces. (2010)
- 9. Applied for and received federal RiNC funding to create a new children's playground at the Ambleside Park Child Care Centre. (2010)
- 10. Opened the newly renovated Ambleside Park Child Care Centre to provide an additional 16 child care spaces, and a new playground. (2010)

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OBJECTIVE 1

Facilitate solutions that address both the immediate and emerging need for high quality child care services and facility space.

ACTIONS FOR MOVING FORWARD

ACTIONS	ROLES AND PARTNERS	DATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to work with the West Vancouver School District and community partners to monitor, identify and implement opportunities for child care planning. b. Monitor new policies and programs initiated by the Provincial and Federal Governments as well as professional organizations that impact on child care and education such as full day kindergarten, 15 x 15 Smart Family Policy and the ECEBC/Coalition of Child Care Advocates BC Plan for an Integrated System of Early Care and Learning in BC. c. Use the list of potential child care sites prepared by the Child Care Services Working Group as a guide to develop new facilities. d. Review and update the list of potential child care sites every three years to identify new opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District of West Vancouver • Churches • Businesses • North Shore Community Resources (Child Care Resource and Referral Program) • West Vancouver School District • North Shore Child Care Planning Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Use survey tools to explore demand for new and/or expanded child care services such as weekend and evening care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Vancouver Parks and Community Services • North Shore Community Resources Society • Hub Partners: Vancouver Coastal Health, Family Place, Library, Gordon House & Ambleside Park Child Care Centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Monitor the Child Care Request Reports semi-annually from North Shore Community Resources' Resource and Referral Program to compare demand for child care to the availability of spaces in existing facilities. g. Distribute this information to existing and prospective child care providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Vancouver Parks and Community Services • North Shore Community Resources Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-annually

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OBJECTIVE 1

Facilitate solutions that address both the immediate and emerging need for high quality child care services and facility space.

ACTIONS FOR MOVING FORWARD

ACTIONS	ROLES AND PARTNERS	DATE
a. Pursue licensing for Occasional Child Care and School Age Care at Gleneagles Community Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services Gleneagles Program Coordinator Vancouver Coastal Health (Licensing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiated August 2010 Ongoing
b. Explore potential to offer additional child care programs at Gleneagles Community Centre and Eagle Harbour StrongStart with community partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services West Vancouver School District 45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 2011
c. Create Municipal resource package for child care providers and include findings on those child care services most needed in West Vancouver.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services District of West Vancouver Permits and Bylaws West Vancouver Fire and Rescue Division North Shore Community Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2011
d. Develop plan for implementing cash in lieu contributions, land, or facility space secured through community benefits negotiations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services District of West Vancouver Planning, Lands and Permits Division District of West Vancouver Finance Division 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate 2012

"Child care is a key step towards achieving the ultimate goal of increasing the quality of life of Canadians" (John Godfrey, MP)

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OBJECTIVE 2

Pursue and promote funding opportunities for new child care in the community through strategic partnerships.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- 2.1 Pursue joint funding opportunities for child care in schools through Provincial initiatives.
- 2.2 Review child care grant programs that are available to operators for operating and capital expenses. Provide this information to private and non-profit child care operators.
- 2.3 Advocate for improved policies and funding at the federal and provincial level to improve access to quality child care for families.
- 2.4 Establish a child care fund for “cash in lieu” contributions negotiated for community benefits as part of new developments and from District land sales.
- 2.5 Continue where possible to support child care initiatives that address identified community need through the Community Grants Program.
- 2.6 Consider including both private and non-profit child care facilities in the District’s Tax Exemption Bylaw.

SUCCESSES TO DATE

- 1. Council supported recommendations from the Child Care Services Working group to include child care as an amenity in the District’s ‘Community Amenity Policy’ (2007)
- 2. Pursued and received major capital funding from the Province to renovate municipal buildings at Gordon House and Ambleside Park which provide a total of 36 new child care spaces in West Vancouver. (2008)
- 3. Pursued and received one year start up funding from the Province for a Child Care Hub Coordinator to establish a ‘hub’ at the Civic Centre site. (2008/2009)
- 4. Secured the Child Care Hub Coordinator position on a sustainable ongoing basis. (2009/2010)
- 5. Provided funds to the University Women’s Club of West Vancouver to support a public child care forum called “Why Child Care Matters on the North Shore”. The forum provided an overview of research being conducted at UBC on the relationship between significant financial investment in child care and positive economic growth and social outcomes. (2010)
- 6. North Shore Mayors’ Golf Tournament raised funds to expand and further develop after school programs at elementary schools in areas showing family vulnerability to be implemented in partnership with Middle Childhood Matters, the School District and the District of West Vancouver. (2010)

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OBJECTIVE 2

Pursue and promote funding opportunities for new child care in the community through strategic partnerships.

ACTIONS FOR MOVING FORWARD

ACTIONS	ROLES AND PARTNERS	DATE
<p>a. Collaborate with North Shore Community Resources to review and update list of available child care grants.</p> <p>b. Circulate the updated grant list to the child care community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services North Shore Community Resources Community Care Licensing, Vancouver Coastal Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual
<p>c. Work with Planning and Development to identify and track new developments which may provide opportunities to secure land, facility space and/or cash in lieu for new child care facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services District of West Vancouver Planning, Lands and Permits Division Senior staff to meet semi-annually to review & discuss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual
<p>d. Prepare a review and assess current financial support the District provides to the North Shore Community Resources (Child Care Resource and Referral Program) through the Community Grants Program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual
<p>e. Seek grants and other financial supports to increase the number of Hub partnership activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Child and Family Hub Partners West Vancouver Parks and Community Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
<p>f. Continue to fund 'May is Child Care Month' activities that recognize the important work of child care providers in our community and raise community awareness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services North Shore Community Resources (Child Care Resource and Referral Program) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual
<p>g. Present recommendations to Council to include private and non-profit child care facilities in the tax exemption bylaw policy review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services District of West Vancouver Finance Division 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2011

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OBJECTIVE 3

Support quality child care services in the community through municipal policies, regulations and guidelines.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- 3.1 Ensure that municipal regulations are amended as necessary to reflect community needs associated with the provision of child care services.
- 3.2 Ensure that the relevant municipal departments are familiarized with the licensing process for child care facilities and that appropriate timelines to complete inspections are established.
- 3.3 Consider child care as a community benefit in new developments.

SUCCESSES TO DATE

- 1. The District's Public Amenity Contribution Policy was written to include child care. (Adopted December 2007)
- 2. Council passed amendments to the Zoning Bylaw, Development Variance Permit Policy and Business Licence Bylaws as they relate to child care. These amendments increase opportunities for new child care services, enhance clarity and respond to neighbourhood interests. (2009)



"Early child development influences lifelong health, learning and behaviour and creates the opportunity to provide every child with equity from the start" (Council for Early Childhood Development)

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OBJECTIVE 3

Support quality child care services in the community through municipal policies, regulations and guidelines.

ACTIONS FOR MOVING FORWARD

ACTIONS	ROLES AND PARTNERS	DATE
a. Include child care as an amenity in new developments where possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services District of West Vancouver Planning, Lands and Permits Division 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
b. Review and update municipal regulations respecting child care as needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services District of West Vancouver Planning Department, Bylaws and Licensing, Permits and Inspections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every 5 years
c. Facilitate meetings attended by the Province's Community Care Licensing officer and the appropriate personnel from the departments to discuss the licensing process for new child care services and opportunities to improve the process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services West Vancouver Fire and Rescue Division District of West Vancouver Bylaws and Licensing, Permits and Inspections Community Care Licensing, Vancouver Coastal Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual
d. Develop a municipal resource package for child care providers with information on: the process, bylaws, licensing and contact information for starting up a child care facility; information on best practices, community building, neighbour relations; community child care need statistics, recommendations for parking and traffic, landscaping and screening; and other helpful tools and resources for operators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services District of West Vancouver Bylaws, Permits and Inspections DWV Fire Department Community Care Licensing, Vancouver Coastal Health North Shore Community Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2011

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OBJECTIVE 4

Develop a communication strategy that 1) ensures information on child care is readily available to the community, 2) facilitates access to information on other services that support the healthy development of young children, and 3) engages the broader community and private sector in advancing opportunities for child care services.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- 4.1 Sustain the West Vancouver Child and Family Hub as a centre of information and resources for child care and families in the community.
- 4.2 Continue to work with the North Shore Community Resources to enhance community access to data base of all licensed and registered child care facilities.
- 4.3 Continue to work with community partners such as North Shore Community Resources, Welcome to the Early Childhood Access Network on the North Shore (WECAN), North Shore Middle Childhood Matters Project, North Shore Child Care Planning Committee to support initiatives that improve access to information and services.
- 4.4 Promote the West Vancouver Child and Family Hub to increase awareness through participation in community events.

SUCSESSES TO DATE

1. Established a Hub Information Kiosk at the West Vancouver Community Centre Civic Site.
2. Facilitated the Wheels Mobile Resource Service for families participation at the: 2009 Harmony Arts Festival, April 14th Friendship Circle (in support of 'Bullying Stops Here 'Campaign) in the Atrium, the June 5th Community Day Parade, Summer in the Parks Program and regular visits to our West Vancouver Community Centre Atrium.
3. Posted regular information on the District's website regarding child care related events and activities.
4. Supported the establishment of StrongStart Centre at Hollyburn and Eagle Harbour Schools.
5. Participated on community committees related to child care to share and receive information.
6. Supported access to information on the Ready Set Learn and Welcome to Kindergarten Program through the Memorial Library, School District and other Community Partners;

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OBJECTIVE 4

Develop a communication strategy that 1) ensures information on child care is readily available to the community 2) facilitates access to information on other services that support the healthy development of young children, and 3) engages the broader community and private sector in advancing opportunities for child care services .

ACTIONS FOR MOVING FORWARD

ACTIONS	ROLES AND PARTNERS	DATE
<p>a. Work with District's Communication and IT departments to update website to be a current and effective communication tool for families and for prospective child care providers. This updated website would include a link to the North Shore Community Services' 'Connect for Kids' website and include contact information for the West Vancouver Child Care Hub Coordinator for residents to ask child care related questions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Vancouver Parks and Community Services • District of West Vancouver Communications Department • District of West Vancouver IT Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
<p>b. Attend and participate in regular meetings of community based child care groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Vancouver Parks and Community Services • North Shore Child Care Planning Committee • Welcome to the Early Childhood Access Network (WECAN) • Middle Childhood Matters Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
<p>c. Identify community events that provide opportunities for the West Vancouver Child and Family Hub to distribute information and highlight the services offered by its partners to West Vancouver families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Vancouver Child and Family Hub Partners • North Shore Community Resources • North Shore Child Care Planning Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
<p>d. Consider opportunities for the business community to promote , support and advocated for quality child care services.</p>		

"It is not enough to say "doors are open" if few walk through them" (Charles E. Pascal, Ontario's Special Advisor on Early Learning)

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OBJECTIVE 5

Support professional development opportunities and information on best practices in early childhood care and education.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- 5.1 Co-operate with North Shore Child Care Resource and Referral Program and other community partners to support opportunities for child care providers to network and enhance skills through forums and workshops.
- 5.2 Support opportunities for child care staff to participate in professional development workshops offered through the School District.
- 5.3 Co-operate with Capilano University Early Childhood Care and Education Program to support professional development, information sharing, and practicum opportunities in the community.
- 5.4 Support initiatives that recognize and inform the public regarding the important work and requisite skills required to provide quality child care.

"The Mayors of the North Shore wish to extend their thanks to the Child Care providers of the North Shore. We recognize and appreciate quality child care as an essential component of livable communities and healthy child development. Thank you!"

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SUCSESSES TO DATE

- 1. Provided support for North Shore wide Child Care Forum: "Why Child Care Matters" (March 2010).
- 2. Supported initiatives recognizing the important contribution of child care providers on the North Shore for 'May is Child Care Month'. Certificates of appreciation from the three North Shore Mayors were sent to all registered child care providers. A *Thank You* message was also published in the North Shore News and Outlook, on behalf of the three North Shore Municipal Councils (May 2010).
- 3. Highlighted and acknowledged important work of child care providers, and Hub initiatives on the District of West Vancouver website and Westnet. (May 2010)
- 4. Initiated discussions for a joint submission by the Hub partners to participate in a leadership program with Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia. (2010)



OBJECTIVE 5

Support professional development opportunities and information on best practices in early childhood care and education.

ACTIONS FOR MOVING FORWARD

ACTIONS	ROLES AND PARTNERS	DATE
a. Continue the initiative for a joint submission by Hub partners to Early Childhood Educators of BC to enhance the leadership skills of licensed early childhood educators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Child and Family Hub Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual
b. Identify possible workshops offered by School District that may be open to child care staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Child and Family Hub Partners West Vancouver School District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010/Ongoing
c. Continue to liaise with community partners to support sharing of information and opportunities for education/training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services West Vancouver Child and Family Hub Partners North Shore Community Resources Welcome to the Early Childhood Access Network North Shore (WECAN) North Shore Child Care Planning Committee Middle Childhood Matters—North Shore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
d. Continue to support May is Child Care Month with events that recognize and enhance the skills of child care providers, and raise community awareness about the child care profession.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Vancouver Parks and Community Services West Vancouver Child and Family Hub North Shore Community Resources Welcome to the Early Childhood Access Network (WECAN) North Shore Child Care Planning Committee Middle Childhood Matters-North Shore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual

"...the positive relation between child care quality and virtually every facet of children's development that has been studied is one of the most consistent findings in developmental science." (National Academy of Sciences)

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OBJECTIVE 6

Create opportunities for parent education on childhood development and healthy parenting.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- 6.1 Host parent seminars, discussion groups and speakers series initiated by the West Vancouver Child and Family Hub.
- 6.2 Work with the Hub, the School District, Middle Childhood Matters, Welcome to the Early Childhood Access Network (WECAN) and other community partners to support access to these opportunities for the community.
- 6.3 Support West Vancouver Memorial Library to enhance parent’s access to library resources on early childhood development and healthy parenting.

SUCSESSES TO DATE

- 1. Created opportunities to share information on childhood development and healthy parenting at special events. (e.g. Harmony Arts Festival, Fall Fair, April Friendship Circle, Summer in the Parks Program and Community Days). (2010)

- 2. The Hub partnered in Welcome to the Early Childhood Access Network, Middle Childhood Matters and other child care related committees to support and promote initiatives for parent education. (2010).
- 3. The School District initiated 2 StrongStart Centres in West Vancouver (Hollyburn and Eagle Harbour Elementary Schools) (2007-2008; ongoing)



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“Families need to have choices and support to realize their full potential in nurturing their children” (Dr. Robin Williams)



OBJECTIVE 6

Create opportunities for parent education on childhood development and healthy parenting.

ACTIONS FOR MOVING FORWARD

ACTIONS	ROLES AND PARTNERS	DATE
a. Look to expand the number of linked events that can provide opportunities to share information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Vancouver Parks and Community Services • West Vancouver Child and Family Hub Partners • North Shore Community Resources • West Vancouver School District • Hollyburn Family Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual • Ongoing
b. Offer workshops using in-house resources through collaboration of Hub partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Vancouver Child and Family Hub Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
c. Continue to network and participate on North Shore child care committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Vancouver Parks and Community Services • North Shore Child Care Planning Committee • Welcome to the Early Childhood Access Network (WECAN) • Middle Childhood Matters—North Shore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing



"Families need to have choices and support to realize their full potential in nurturing their children" (Dr. Robin Williams)

All children deserve to grow up in communities where they are nurtured so they may thrive.





OBJECTIVE 7

Provide leadership in seeking resources, planning, development, coordination, problem solving and monitoring of child care services in West Vancouver.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- 7.1 Support and oversee implementation of Child Care Plan.
- 7.2 Support child care operators in starting new services and to maintain existing services.
- 7.3 Report on the status of child care in West Vancouver and identify emerging issues for Council's consideration.

SUCSESSES TO DATE

- 1. Child Care Services Working Group completed a review of child care needs, issues and opportunities in West Vancouver, and brought forward the Child Care Plan for West Vancouver Council. (2007-2010).

"Investment in the development and care of our youngest children is the most fundamental form of good leadership" (Carol Bellamy, Executive Director, UNICEF)



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OBJECTIVE 7

Provide leadership in seeking resources, planning, development, coordination, problem solving and monitoring of child care services in West Vancouver.

ACTIONS FOR MOVING FORWARD

ACTIONS	ROLES AND PARTNERS	DATE
a. Present Child Care Plan to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Vancouver Parks and Community Services • Child Care Services Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec. 2010
b. Develop timeline and resource needs for ongoing implementation of Child Care Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Vancouver Parks and Community Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011
c. Present Annual Child Care Report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Vancouver Parks and Community Services • North Shore Community Resources • West Vancouver Child and Family Hub Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May/ Child Care Month
d. Continue to work with other municipal departments to ensure that new and existing child care providers receive good information and excellent service in obtaining and renewing their licenses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Vancouver Parks and Community Services • West Vancouver Planning and Bylaws Departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing

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THE DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER CONTINUALLY SEEKS INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY IN ALL OF ITS INITIATIVES.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PROVIDING FEEDBACK ON THIS PLAN OR ITS ACTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR CHILD CARE PLEASE CONTACT:

NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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