

Make Children First (MCF) is a community coalition of individuals and organizations who believe that it takes a whole community to raise a child. We work to enhance the ability of our community to support the healthy development of children and their families.

You can find us at **Interior Community Services**
396 Tranquille Road, Kamloops BC V2B 3G7
250-554-3134

Check out our website for more information and resources for your young family!

www.makechildrenfirst.ca

Acknowledgements: The 2010 State of the Child Report was developed in consultation with the MCF Early Identification Committee. Thank you to everyone who contributed insight and information for this report.

References:

Boys and Girls Club of Kamloops: www.bgckamloops.com
City of Kamloops: www.kamloops.ca
Dieticians of Canada: www.dieticians.ca
First Call: www.firstcallbc.org
Human Early Learning Partnership: www.earlylearning.ca
Interior Health Authority—Public Health
Kamloops Child Care Resource and Referral
Kamloops Food Bank: www.kamloopsfoodbank.org
Kamloops/Thompson Community Mapping Study
School District 73
Success by Six (Thompson Nicola Caribou)
Understanding the Early Years: Community Research Report



**State
Of
The
Child
Report**

**2010
Kamloops**

The environments where children learn and grow are very influential on their physical and emotional development.

It takes the whole community to raise a child and Make Children First works to enhance the ability of our community to support the healthy development of our children.

This report has been compiled to give families and professionals living in the Kamloops community a snapshot of how children 0-6 are doing. Inside find information about Child Care, Health, Early Learning, Family Economics, Food, and some of the ways Kamloops is Child Friendly.



MAKE Children First
KAMLOOPS



Child Care

It takes a village to raise a child

Child Care Spaces ~

There are **175 licensed child care centres** in Kamloops with space for **2752** children.

Average monthly parent fees in 2009:

\$928 for infant care

\$824 for toddler care

\$675 for 3-5 year olds

These are all ↑ from 2008

Although there are more **spaces available** due to government stimulus, waitlists continue to grow due to vacancies for qualified staff.

Licensed Early Childhood Educators

earn **low wages** compared with other professional sectors which leads to:

High staff turnover
Poor retention rates

Full day Kindergarten will support emergent literacy, language development, creativity and social interaction for all five year olds over the next two years. These are all critical skills for grade 1 and beyond.



Food

Nutritious food is a prerequisite for good health

The Kamloops **Food Bank** hands out **1.5 million pounds** of food each year.

In June of 2010—**8%** of the clients served by the Food Bank were children **under the age of 6.**

According to the **Dieticians of Canada**, **\$835** is the average monthly cost for a **nutritious food basket** for a family of **four** living in the Interior Health Region.

The **Boys and Girls Club** of Kamloops uses: **12 fridges of fruit**
84 loaves of bread
& 208 litres of milk every month to feed the children and youth in their programs. For some children, these are the first meals of their day.

Grocery costs for the club are over **\$8000 each month.**



Family Economics

Children need stable home environments to thrive

In **2006** there were **7135** children **0-6** years old in the **Kamloops/Thompson** region.

The Low Income Cut Off (LICO) for Kamloops in **2006 was \$33,046**. Census data (2006) shows **16% of families** in Kamloops living on family incomes **below \$30,000**.

Unemployment rates for families with 0-6 year olds is **8.3%**.

The **average house price** in Kamloops in 2008 was **\$379,000** which has **more than doubled** in the last 4 years.

There was a **0.7% vacancy rate** in 2008 with one-bedroom **rental fees rising** from \$565 in 2006 to \$618 in 2007.

BC has had the highest rate of **child poverty** in Canada for the last **7 years**.



Health

The first 6 years set the stage for healthy living for life!

There were **976 babies** born to families living in Kamloops in 2009 ↑ from **920** in 2008.

5.5% of babies born at RIH in 2009 weighed less than 2500g and considered **low birth weight** - similar to the IHA region rate of 5.4%. **The provincial goal is 4%**

Since 2009 **all newborns** have the opportunity to have their **hearing screened** to detect early hearing loss.

77% of children born to families living in Kamloops are fully immunized at **age 2**—this is higher than the **IHA region** rate of **68.9%**.

In 2009—**82%** of Kamloops mothers were **exclusively breastfeeding their infants** after birth and **39%** after 6 months.



My ability to learn starts at birth

In 2009—**933** little ones participated in **Parent-Child Mother Goose** programs in Kamloops.

There are **3 Strong Start** Early Learning Centres in Kamloops located at:
Arthur Hatton
Marion Shilling & South Sa-Hali Elementary Schools—these are **free** drop-in programs for children up to **5** with their caregivers.

Early Development Instrument (EDI) ~ The EDI measures **5 domains** of development for all children in kindergarten.

28.1% of children in School District 73 were vulnerable on at least one scale of development in 2009 - an **increase of almost 6%** since 2006.

Parents report the following **3 issues** as limiting to children's participation in community activities: **inconvenient program times, too costly, not enough family time.**



My environment can help me grow and develop

The Kamloops **Children's Charter of Rights** will be launched on International Children's Day—**Nov 20th, 2010**. This community Charter will **increase awareness** about children's rights and help keep our children in the forefront of our minds when making community decisions.

In partnership with **Success by 6**, Make Children First launched a new Business Strategy to promote the importance of **investing in families** with young children. Not only will our community benefit through greater economic prosperity, but families will be better supported to achieve more **balanced work-family lives**.

Kamloops is now home to **BC's first Children's Museum** and offers something for children of all ages! Check it out at 207 Seymour Street in downtown Kamloops.