

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](http://www.makechildrenfirst.ca)

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**References:**

City of Kamloops: [www.kamloops.ca](http://www.kamloops.ca)  
First Call: [www.firstcallbc.org](http://www.firstcallbc.org)  
Human Early Learning Partnership:  
[www.earlylearning.ca](http://www.earlylearning.ca)  
Interior Health Authority—Public Health  
Kamloops Child Care Resource and Referral  
Kamloops Food Bank: [www.kamloopsfoodbank.org](http://www.kamloopsfoodbank.org)  
Kamloops Food Policy Council  
School District 73  
Success by Six (Thompson Nicola Caribou United Way)



**State  
Of  
The  
Child  
Report**

**2011  
Kamloops**

The places and spaces where children grow and learn are very influential on all aspects of their development. Make Children First knows that early experiences matter for children to grow up healthy and thrive. The MCF coalition works to create a more nurturing 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, The Early Development Instrument, Food, and the Kamloops Children's Charter of Rights.

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## Child Care

*It takes a village to raise a child*

### Child Care Spaces ~

There are **156 licensed child care centres** in Kamloops with space for **2638** children ↓ from 2009

Average monthly parent fees seem to have stabilized in 2010. Depending on the type of care, parent fees vary greatly:

**\$600—1050** for infant care  
**\$600—1050** for toddler care  
**\$500—800** for 3-5 year olds

Of those daycares who completed a survey in 2010:  
**49%** indicated they had space available  
**31%** indicated they are full

### All 5 year olds in

**Kamloops** are able to attend full day Kindergarten as of Sept 2011. This will change the childcare needs for working families:

↑ **Increasing** the need for before and after-school care for 5 year olds

↓ **Decreasing** the need for all day care for 5 year olds.

In 2010 there was a higher demand and longer waitlists for infants and toddlers, while caregivers have **spaces available** for 4 year olds.



## Food

*Nutritious food is a prerequisite for good health*

**9%** of the Kamloops' Food Bank's clients are **children 0-5 years old**, this amounted to 782 children in 2010. 32% are under 18 years of age.

The Food Bank's '**Baby Bank**' provided necessities for **220 babies 0-2 years of age** this year.

**867 864 pounds of food** were collected in 2010 serving

BC's current **child poverty rate is 16.4%**, the second highest in Canada, while families with children **under 6** have an even higher rate of child poverty of **19.6%**

**Community gardens** help improve food security in Kamloops while providing children with hands-on learning about where their food comes from.

Community Gardens are operated by a number of different groups and organizations including the **City of Kamloops, Interior Community Services, Schools and Churches.**



## Early Learning

*Sounds and gestures are early modes of communication*

In 2010—**913** little ones participated in **56 Parent-Child Mother Goose** programs in Kamloops.

There were **400 attendees** at the 2010 **ABC Family Literacy Day Celebration**

**437** children attended **StrongStart Centres** in Kamloops in 2010

There are 4 **StrongStart Centres** in Kamloops at:

Marion Shilling Elementary  
Arthur Hatton Elementary  
South Sahali Elementary  
A.E. Perry Elementary

StrongStart Centres offer **free** opportunities for parents and their children to engage in early learning play-based activities that include stories, music and art. ECE lead sessions also encourage interaction and connection between parents and caregivers.



## Health

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

There were **924 babies** born to families living in Kamloops in 2010 ↓ from **976** in 2009.

**6.06%** of babies born at RIH in 2010 weighed less than 2500g and are considered **low birth weight** (↑ from 2009) this is higher than the **IHA region rate of 5.47%** and above the provincial goal of **4%**

In 2010—**82%** of Kamloops mothers were **exclusively breastfeeding their infants** after birth and **42%** after 6 months.

Dental day surgeries are one of the highest rates of child admissions to RIH:

YEAR	Age 0-4	Age 5-9
2007-2008	79	94
2008-2009	67	82
2009-2010	48	76
2010-2011	42	95

**78% of children** born to families living in Kamloops are fully immunized at **age 2**—this is higher than the **IHA region** rate of **71%**.



*My ability to learn starts at birth*

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

- \*physical health and well-being
- \*emotional maturity
- \*communication
- \*social competence
- \*language and cognitive development

**29%** of children in **School District 73** were vulnerable on at least one scale of development in 2010 similar to the **provincial average of 30.9%**.

**This means 1/3 of children in our community are lacking desired skills for school readiness**

Our school district has now been involved in **4 waves of EDI** measurement AND:

- Most domains have increased in vulnerability over time
- The Emotional Maturity scale has increased the most in vulnerability
- The language and cognitive development scale show the most resilience

**These trends are similar across BC**



**KAMLOOPS**  
children's charter of rights  
In the words of our children...

- 1 The right to basic needs** Every child has the right to a home, clothing, nutritious food, clean air and water; to be loved, to sleep and have stuffies to cuddle with.
- 2 The right to make friends and freely meet in groups** Every child has the right to have fun with friends - together we learn how to make friends, share, and know that it is okay to be ourselves.
- 3 The right to religion, culture and beliefs** Every child has the right to learn acceptance, tolerance and to walk a path of our own.
- 4 The right to privacy** Every child has the right to be alone, to have time for thinking and a spot to call "mine."
- 5 The right to justice, protection and treatment** Every child has the right to live without fear knowing we will be safe - someone to protect us from spiders.
- 6 The right to education** Every child has the right to learn how to read and write, and know what is going on in the world.
- 7 The right to a caring home environment** Every child has the right to have someone to care for us, feed us, tuck us into bed, say "I love you" and try to give us a happy life.
- 8 The right to be heard** Every child has the right to express themselves without being criticized, to make choices, ask questions and state an opinion - adults should respect that.
- 9 The right to an identity** Every child has the right to learn and feel good about themselves, to have hope and wonder.
- 10 The right to peace** Every child has the right to participate in peaceful gatherings and the freedom to love and be friends.
- 11 The right to equal access** Every child has the right to be treated with the same love, care, respect and kindness - to not be treated differently because we are children.
- 12 The right to play** Every child has the right to play in the rain and build a waterfall in the backyard.

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