City of Markham’s Commitment to Children

The City of Markham is committed to providing safe, inclusive and quality programs. Our programs provide children with a wide variety of experiences that are designed to promote healthy child development. Through this Commitment to Children, the City of Markham will ensure that staff provide the environment and activities that promote healthy child development at all times.

City of Markham’s Recreation, Culture and Library Staff are committed to:

* Encouraging and supporting the ongoing development of staff and volunteers with regard to their knowledge and understanding of healthy child development;
* Ensuring clear and on-going communication with parents and families;
* Encouraging participation and input from children and families;
* Providing the organizational supports necessary to ensure that children feel safe, welcome, competent, connected, empowered and special and further that;

City of Markham’s Program Environments for children will be:

* Secure, safe and stable;
* Caring;
* Stimulating;
* Accessible;
* Appropriately Challenging;
* Considerate of personal space needs and special needs;
* Equipped with age, size and ability-appropriate equipment and materials;
* Welcoming to all races, cultures and abilities and further that;

City of Markham’s Program Activities for children will:

* Encourage co-operation, friendship and fun;
* Provide children with opportunities for input, involvement and choice;
* Reflect both assessed and expressed needs;
* Allow for a combination of self-directed and Counsellor directed activities;
* Provide opportunities for active participation and reflection;
* Incorporate varied learning styles and developmental stages;
* Recognize uniqueness and encourage mastery;
* Value and incorporate cultural, racial and linguistic diversity and further that;

City of Markham’s Program Instructors and Counsellors will:

* Ensure all children are treated with respect, honesty and trust;
* Recognize and accept children’s individual needs and circumstances;
* Employ positive behaviour management methods;
* Help children value and celebrate diversity in the community;
* Consistently model appropriate behaviour; and
* Continually evaluate the program and their Counsellorship to reflect changing needs and make improvements as needed.