

PLAY WORKS

The Ontario Partnership for Active Youth.



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The Ontario Partnership for Active Youth.

Play Works is a group of organizations who are concerned about the future of our youth and have joined forces to bring back the power of play to Ontario's young people

4-H Ontario
Arts Network for Children and Youth
Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario
Laidlaw Foundation
Ontario Physical and Health Education Association
Ontario Young People's Alliance
Parks and Recreation Ontario
Sport Alliance of Ontario
YMCA Ontario
Educational Research

Play

- A fundamental adolescent need, essential for emotional, social and physical well-being
- Any non-school activity, with elements of choice, leading to satisfaction, encourages activism, volunteerism and youth leadership
- Sports, arts, drama, dance, civic engagement and social clubs
- Structured and unstructured, facility and non-facility based, competitive and recreation, active and passive, adult-led and peer-led

"Youth have been cancelled until further notice"

All work and no play has made Ontario a dull play for anyone over 12 years old

Play Works believe there are communities across Ontario that are taking steps to open their doors to youth by reinvesting in youth play





The Youth Friendly Recognition Program

A Youth Friendly Community:

Actively supports and provides opportunities for the growth and development of youth ages 13-19 through play

Two-step Process:

1. Initial application - general information on community (10 youth spokes persons)
2. Formal application - community provides evidence to meet at least 10 / 16 identified criteria



The Youth Friendly Recognition Program

YFC 2005 – participants:

City of Burlington

City of Peterborough

City of Pickering

Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Municipality of Port Hope

Municipality of South Huron

Town of Ajax

Town of Aurora

Town of Markham



Criteria 1

“Youth have options for play in their community”

- Program listing
- Activity cards
- Sponsored recreation programs

[Picture deleted]

Criteria 2

“Youth are formally connected to their community”

- Youth and business committee
- Multi-level engagement
- Youth councils



Criteria 3

“Facilities are dedicated to youth play”

- Velocity....a place for youth
- Skate parks
- Youth friendly zone



Criteria 4

“It is easy for youth to get information about play activities in their community”



- Transit ads
- Youth-led website
- Pocket-sized card list services

[Picture deleted]

Criteria 5

“The community supports public youth events”



- Youth and business luncheon
- Artfest with local Arts Council
- Youthfest



Criteria 6

“The community celebrates and recognizes youth”

- Optimist Club 5 awards
- Night of 1000 Stars
- Poetry Contest



Criteria 7

“The community commits funding for youth play”

- CARE Fund
- Youth development workers
- Free programs

[Picture deleted]



Criteria 8

“The community supports positive youth development”



- Youth as customers

- ?

- ?

[Picture deleted]

Criteria 9

“The community supports youth volunteerism and leadership development”



- Teen library council
- Volunteer ‘exchange’ program
- Free bus passes

[Pictures deleted]

Criteria 10

“The community has effective community partnerships”



- Integrated partnerships
e.g. Housing cooperative - cultural groups
- Knowing the community
- It's not all about money

[Picture deleted]

Criteria 11

“Youth activism and advocacy for play is nurtured”

- Youth surveys
- ?
- ?



Criteria 12

“Youth feel comfortable in their community”



- ?

- ?

[Picture deleted]

- ?

Criteria 13

“Youth can get to play programs that are offered”



- Youth on transit committees
- Dial-a-bus evening service [Picture deleted]

Criteria 14

“Schools support the youth friendly approach”



- Point of contact for information

[Picture deleted]

- Service exchange

- ?

Criteria 15

“Adults champion the need for youth play”



- Mayors take on youth
- Paid youth development staff
- ?

[Pictures deleted]

Criteria 16

“Play is accessible for youth with disabilities”

- Mobility busses for special needs

- ?

[Pictures deleted]

- ?



What the applications told us:

- Age confusion
- Integrated application vs municipal service application
- Options to play are there - youth often don't know
- Strong formal community connections – not necessarily reflective in services provided
- Strong adult support – mainly staffing not necessarily on community level

What needs to be worked on:

- Community youth support at public events
- Support of positive youth development
- Activism needs to be nurtured
- Youth feeling comfortable in their community
- Transportation issues

New applications are currently being processed
(May 2006)

www.playworkspartnership.ca