

How well do YOU think our children are doing?

Let us know your comments at:

INFO@CATCHCOALITION.CA



Community Action Toward Children's Health

### Acknowledgments~

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### References~

Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation: [www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/)  
District of Peachland: [Peachland.ca](http://Peachland.ca)  
District of West Kelowna: [districtofwestkelowna.ca](http://districtofwestkelowna.ca)  
Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP): [www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/](http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/)  
Interior Health  
Library: [www.interiorhealth.ca/](http://www.interiorhealth.ca/)  
Kelowna Child Care Society: <http://kelownachildcare.com/>  
Kelowna Community Food Bank: [kelownafoodbank.com](http://kelownafoodbank.com)  
Ministry of Children & Family Development: [gov.bc.ca/mcf](http://gov.bc.ca/mcf)  
Okanagan College: [Okanagan.bc.ca](http://Okanagan.bc.ca)  
Okanagan Regional Library: [orl.bc.ca](http://orl.bc.ca)

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Every aspect of a child's environment, including secure relationships provides an opportunity to help grow a healthy and happy child.

The 2009 State of the Child Report provides information on five elements of the Central Okanagan environment: Child Care, Early Learning, Family Economics & Wellbeing, Child-Friendly Cities, and Health.

The report aims to initiate discussions about how well our community is raising healthy children and encourage everyone to take action when and where they can.

## Child Care



*Quality Child Care sets the foundation for a child's development!*

### Child Care Spaces~

**848** child care spaces have opened in the last 5 years; a **23% increase**.

However, there is still lack of spaces.

This year **only 48%** of parents report successfully finding child care, in comparison to **67%** five years ago.

### Parent Fees ~

Parent fees have increased by **\$200 per month** in the past 3 years. The average family pays nearly **\$900/month** for toddler care.

The 3 main challenges for child care programs are:

- Expensive start up costs and difficulty finding funding
- Low wages for Early Childhood Educators
- Difficulty recruiting and retaining Early Childhood Educators

## Health



*Healthy children grow up to become healthy adults!*

### Newborn~

**1660 babies** were born at KGH in 2008. The average birth weight was 7.5 lbs (3400 g). **6%** of these babies had a **low birth-weight** (less than 5.5 lbs or 2500 g); the Provincial goal is **4%**.

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

### Child~

The primary reason for hospitalization of children at KGH was **diseases and disorders of the digestive system**

Hospitalization rates for children with respiratory diseases were **12** per 1,000 locally, whereas it was **4** per 1,000 provincially.

## Child-Friendly Cities



*Environments are a place for children to feel safe and stimulated.*

The Central Okanagan communities **endeavor to be Child Friendly** by working toward the UN Rights of the Child including:

- Influencing decisions about their city
- Participating in family, community and social life, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or disability
- Receiving basic services such as health care, education, shelter, and healthy food
- Being protected from exploitation, violence and abuse
- Walking safely on the streets to meet friends and play

### Local Successes

Additional playgrounds and water parks, **low-cost** recreation, increased **partnerships** for family supports, and increased **accessibility**, ie. Transportation, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes.

## Early Learning



*Play is a child's work!*

### Early Development Instrument (EDI)~

The EDI measures **5 domains** of children's development up to Kindergarten age.

**20%** of local children were vulnerable on at least one scale of development in 2009, a **reduction of 7% in the last 3 years.**

### Family Supports~

There are **7 Strong Starts** and **4 Family Resource Programs** all **free** to families in the Central Okanagan.

### Literacy~

Library cards used to cost for people living on Westbank First Nation land. Since 2008, **120 children** have registered for their **free** library cards.

Last year the six local library branches held **455 story time sessions** for children aged birth to 5.

## Family Economics & Wellbeing

*The effects of poverty, poor nutrition and unsafe housing during childhood have an impact throughout the life cycle.*



### Income~

BC has the **lowest** minimum wage in Canada (\$8) and it has not increased in **8 years**.

In 2007, the median employment income was **\$27,306**; an increase of **more than \$5,000** in the last 4 years.

The incidence of low-income families in 2006 was **9.2%** locally and **13.3%** provincially; **unchanged** since 2001.



### Education~

In 2001 **79%** of adults had completed high school. In 2006 that number has increased to **89%**.

However, in 2008 only **75% of 18-year olds** graduated, consistent with the provincial average

### Children in Out-of-Home Care~

In August 2009 there were **404 children in out-of-home care**. This is an **11% decrease** since August 2008.



### Food~

It costs **\$774** to feed a family of four each month; **10% higher** than the cost of the same food basket six months ago.

Annually for the past **4 years more than 9,000** hungry children came to the Kelowna Food Bank for help.



### Housing~

In 2009 the average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment was **\$935**; an increase from **\$800** in 2006.

Kelowna is the **fifth most expensive** place to purchase a home in Canada. Between 2002 and 2009 the median housing price **increased by 125%**. The average home price is now **\$450,000**.