



Child Friendly Places in Kelowna:

1. Children's Waterpark: City Park

A great location to play in the Okanagan sun! Fun characters like Winnie the Pooh and a big dragon climber greet children of all ages with bursts of water to cool you off on a hot summer day. There's a water slide, skateboard park and a dry playground for little ones too. City Park also has beach access, washrooms and walking path along the lakefront.



2. Waterpark Bear Sculpture:

GRIZZLY BEARS

M. Jacobi 1964

Children's Waterpark, City Park

This concrete sculpture (along with Ogoopogo) is one of Kelowna's oldest surviving sculptural installations and many people remember visiting it as children. It reminds us of the connection between 'Kelowna' and its original meaning 'grizzly bear' in the Okanagan First Nation language. It is also very appealing and accessible to children.



3. Ogoopogo

OGOPOGO

Peter Soelin 1960

Kerry Park, corner of Bernard Ave. and Abbott St..

Visitors to Kelowna are often seen photographing this cheerful fiberglass rendering of Okanagan Lake's most famous resident, Ogoopogo, who was originally named N'Ha-a-itk or 'Lake Serpent Spirit' by the area's First Nation peoples. Children love to clamber aboard the Ogoopogo to have their pictures taken.



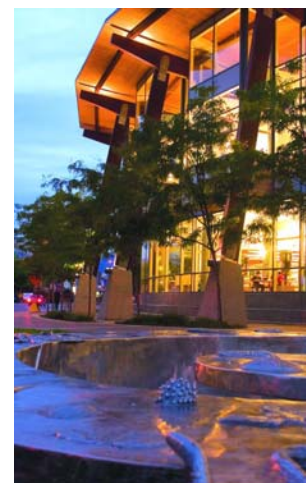
4. Library and Sculpture in Front on Ellis St.

Entitled, "NATURAL LANGUAGE"

Jennifer Macklem and Kip Jones 2000

Library Plaza, 1380 Ellis St.

Natural Language consists of a spiral bench and a rotating 12-foot mobius 'infinity' form, both made of cast stainless steel. The bench is enhanced with representations of biological diversity (look for the hidden bird's nest) and the mobius features letters and symbols derived





from the world's alphabets. The sculpture was also designed to be accessible to children and to provide a sense of discovery.

The library itself has paid heed to the needs of children. It has story times for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers, there's a special colourful room for children's activities and really comfy bug cushions to sit on to read your books. There is even a bathroom for little ones including a small toilet and baby change table.

5. Martin Centre: Central Okanagan Boys & Girls Club 1434 Graham St.

This is a classic example of how municipalities and children's service agencies can work together. When the District 23 School District no longer needs school sites, the City of Kelowna has a great interest in acquiring them. Add to this its long partnership with the Central Okanagan Boys and Girls Club and you have the Martin Centre. The City has long seen the Boys and Girls Club as a logical partner to provide programs and services to children and youth that the City might otherwise provide. Financial operating assistance has been committed to this organization by the City for more than two decades. The Martin Centre is leased from the City by the Boys & Girls Club for virtually no cost except responsibility for maintenance and upgrades to the building accepted by the agency. Children's day care and programs are run out of this facility, and space is also made available for seniors' programs and community events in the Community Hall which is the former gym. Further plans will be made between the City and the agency for park use of the school grounds.

6. Day Care Connection at David Lloyd Jones Home at 934 Bernard Ave.

This day care is licensed for 16 children and is a shining example of how well blending children's day care with seniors homes can work. The children have multiple adoptive "grandparents" to see during their days at the centre and the lonely seniors are delighted by children visiting and entertaining them.

7. Strathcona Park

Kelowna is famous for beaches and Strathcona Park is probably the community's favourite beach park for families and children. The water is shallow, there is play equipment, washrooms and a large green park area.

8. Cameron Park Day Care and Waldorf School

An example of City land within a park being leased to provide children's services, Cameron Park Day Care was established in the mid 1990s and has enjoyed this park location since then. It leases this location from the City for \$1 a year. The Cameron



House Pre-school (a Waldorf school) has been there even longer and in lieu of rent it maintains and upgrades the historical building it uses on the property.

9. Kelowna Secondary School (KSS) Day Care

A day care facility is provided at this secondary school location to allow high school students with children to continue their education.

10. Gyro Beach

One of the most popular beaches in Kelowna for tourist and residents alike, this beach park is also great for children and families, with some great play structures and a well-known apple-designed concession building.



11. Rotary Beach

A beach park known in Kelowna to be ideal for small children and their families, with very shallow water and a good sand beach.

12. Capital News Centre

An example of one of the newest recreation complexes in the city of Kelowna, the Capital News Centre features some public private partnerships in providing recreation facilities. The building provides a smaller, round skating rink on the immediate right from the entrance for small children. There is also a library and a future swimming pool complex is moving ahead at this location that will feature a wave pool and other water features designed with children in mind.

13. Sarsons Beach

A beach in the southerly area of the City that is popular for children and families due to the quality of the beach and the design of the park. There is a building on the property that can be rented for community events and meetings.



14. Quilchena Park Playground (Kettle Valley)

Designed and built originally as a community-based partnership project, this playground was destroyed in 2003 by the Okanagan Mountain Park fire and has since been rebuilt with community support. It features safe and accessible play structures and has a surveillance system that allows the area to be supervised from within homes in the Kettle Valley community.



15. Parkinson Recreation Centre

A City-owned and operated facility, this recreation complex offers programs for children and families that are affordable, with additional measures to ensure that lower income households can access the same services. Special needs children and individuals are catered to as well.



16. Orchard Park Shopping Centre

The mall features a family centre that has many great features for children. See the information kiosk near the Starbucks to get in:

- secure room for families with small children only, (need to give Mall staff your driver's licence for a pass to get in)
- stroller parking in the hall & lockers for your gear/shopping
- brightly coloured room complete with 2 separate bathrooms, little toilets, lower sinks and a stool for little ones to stand on for hand washing.
- diaper change tables, complete with extra diapers & wipes in case you forgot yours
- highchair and microwave oven for heating up baby food or bottles
- large arm chairs for breastfeeding Moms & sitting area with toys and TV with kid's video to entertain little ones
- water fountain, beads, games and puzzles built into the walls

It's a great place for a breastfeeding Mother to go & sit privately to feed baby -especially if she has a toddler in tow. There is a safe enclosed room for her to tend to the baby's needs while the toddler can be safely play with the toys .

17. ECCO Centre, Mission Creek Park

Mission Creek Park itself is a wonderful family resource. Features of interest to children include:

- great playground,
- washrooms
- trails that you can take a stroller on, nature, the Creek, bridge, bike trails,
- ECCO centre
 - education about the environment, local salmon run, wildlife etc
 - for little ones, ECCO centre has playdoh molds of wildlife footprints that you can make, a table with pebbles, running water, bridges & animals to create your own 'mission creek', a log house with stuffies and puppets to put on your own show, bug displays and a bat cave.
 - Displays
 - Cultural Events



18. Rutland Water Park

With the development of Ben Lee Park in 2000, a second water-park for children was established in Kelowna. With Rutland being further away from the waterfront, this was an important addition to summer recreation in the city.

19. Rutland YMCA

The Athans Aquatic Centre is an example of a facility owned by the City and operated in partnership with the YM/WCA. Programs are offered in partnership as well. For example, Success By 6 just funded the “Play with Me” program which is an opportunity for children 18mths – 3 years to play on land and in water with their caregivers. The program is supported by a program coordinator along with volunteers who assist the family in learning to play safely in these environments and connect with other families with children in this age range. For more specifics you can contact Coreen Hemmingway at the Y.



20. Airport Play Structure

The City’s Airport Management is proud of all the improvements that have gone into the airport during its rapid expansion over the last few years. The play structure in the flight lounge is one of those improvements.