

# POLICY ON CHILDREN

Being born, growing up and thriving  
in Montréal: From childhood to adolescence

Montréal 

With this Policy on Children and a stated intention to create a children's rights movement, Montréal announces its commitment to step up actions and support in all the areas where it may, directly or indirectly, contribute to child development.

## VISION

We have a vision that, every day from birth to the age of majority, all children in Montréal must be given the opportunity to grow, develop and reach their full potential.

Develop the "child reflex" by bringing municipal stakeholders and their partners to intensify their actions, together, and adapt these actions to the many faces and realities of Montréal children.

More specifically, this policy aims to:

- Create favourable environments for the overall development of children in Montréal.
- Enable children to be born and grow up in families that are equipped to bring them into this world and care for them.
- Provide a continuum of services that meet the diverse needs of children, particularly by encouraging discovery, learning and self-development.
- Support actions that accompany children along their educational path to independence.

## TARGET GROUP

The Policy on Children takes into account all children in Montréal from birth to the age of 17, including boys and girls of diverse ethnic, cultural or religious backgrounds or genders, as well as social or health conditions.

## VALUES

This policy, which is based on equal opportunity, will provide, in all fairness, favourable development conditions for the well-being of Montréal children, regardless of their family, social or economic environment, through consistent action and with due regard to their fundamental rights.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF ACTION

- Include all children.
- Listen to their needs.
- Accompany children on the path towards independence.
- Provide flexible answers on a neighbourhood scale.
- Work in partnership.

## FIVE AREAS OF INTERVENTION

The Policy on Children will help to meet the cognitive, emotional, physical and social needs of children and ensure their optimal development, taking into account their specific evolution. The actions stemming from this policy will focus on the following axes:

- 1 Safety and accessibility of urban environments:** Offer children an urban environment that promotes play and discovery, which is designed and laid out in a safe, attractive and universally accessible manner.
- 2 Healthy eating and food safety:** Make food accessible, economically and geographically, while taking into account sustainable development.
- 3 Academic perseverance and success:** Intensify efforts to promote academic perseverance and encourage children to play an active role in their community.
- 4 Access to culture, sports and recreation:** Maintain and improve the cultural, sports and recreational offerings in neighbourhoods and on a citywide scale throughout the year, so that all may benefit from the same opportunities, develop skills and a healthy lifestyle.
- 5 Families and communities:** Highlight and promote the mobilization of key players involved in the children's main places of attachment and belonging, teach them the importance of their contribution and encourage participation.

## ROLE OF MONTRÉAL

To ensure that the Policy on Children benefits all children in the city, Montréal agrees to the following:

- Fully exercise its leadership role in child-related issues, while working together with its partners.
- Encourage the pooling of stakeholders' expertise and resources, using an integrated and strategic approach in terms of parent support.
- Develop partnerships as well as effective and sustainable cooperation.
- Implement specific measures that meet the needs of children and families and facilitate their social involvement.
- Work with city representatives to implement this policy.

## IMPLEMENTATION

This policy will materialize through an action plan whose specific measures will apply as priorities in the neighbourhoods and boroughs, in partnership with local organizations, using their expertise and by focusing on innovation. Because society is rapidly changing, the Policy on Children will be updated every five years to remain responsive to the needs of children and their families.

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