

Children First Society Year End report 2018-2019 Operational



Submitted by:

Patricia Davison

Children First Society

Address: Box 3277 Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0

Phone: 867 777 3703

Date: March 22, 2019

Email: execdir@childrenfirstsociety.org

Program Date: April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

Executive Summary

It has been another amazing year at the Centre. Children First Centre has passed its five-year anniversary mark. Finishing up a financial stable year for our 3rd year in a row. Our hands-on emergent curriculum has strengthened with exploring nature, the world around and making connections to the world and others. We have had an incredible amount of support from our funders.

Children First Society staff continue to work hard, including taking on dual roles, putting in extra energy to add programs and maintain creative programming on a tight budget. We expanded our out-reach program this year. This was possible thanks to some additional funding from the Town of Inuvik wage subsidy program and the GNWT Healthy Choices funds.

With programming dollars from the GTC, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) and Tides Canada- NWT On the Land Programs we could maintain a strong tradition culture base of activity. The on the land trips with the elders is certainly one of the children's favorite parts of our curriculum. In the fall of 2018 the Inuvialuit Project Jewel helped us organize the logistics to take children by boat out to the Gwich'in wellness camp. The children, staff, and elders had a memorable time learning from the land and sharing tradition.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) has used the Federal Early Childhood funds to top up the Early Childhood Program (ECP), increasing the contributions to Centres significantly. This has helped ease some of the financial pressure of other fading program funds as we move forward.

Our on-going partnership with Aurora College, has enabled our staff to work towards professional development in Early Childhood. Two staff have completed the Early Childhood Certificate Program. With this partnership we have been able to offer an early childhood pilot program at the Centre. Staff complete courses in early childhood on site by working on assignments in their daily schedule, reviewing readings and other resources to support the knowledge gained in staff meetings, weekly program meetings and day to day support.

Beaufort Delta Rehabilitation Team, continue their support to the Centre. Weekly visits to provide hands on activities to the preschool program has assisted us in the support to all children 3-4 years of age. We have also received support from Jordan's Principal. We look forward to these continuing partnerships.

Forest Play, Risky Play, Rough and Tumble play are all documented as important in the development of young children. Children First offers many opportunities for such experiences. Our learning through play program is inclusive with chunks of outside exploration, gym times, on the land trips and science experiments.

It is a privilege to be a part of such a dynamic organization, that flexes and adapts to the community needs. As we work closer towards the goal of supporting all young children, the building is bustling at all hours of the day, evening and weekends. With community outreach programs, workshops, AHS, Dance Classes, early learning and care programs, literacy activities, family events and more offered on a regular basis.

Our commitment is to provide early learning and care for families in Inuvik.
The community of Inuvik has helped make that vision come true.

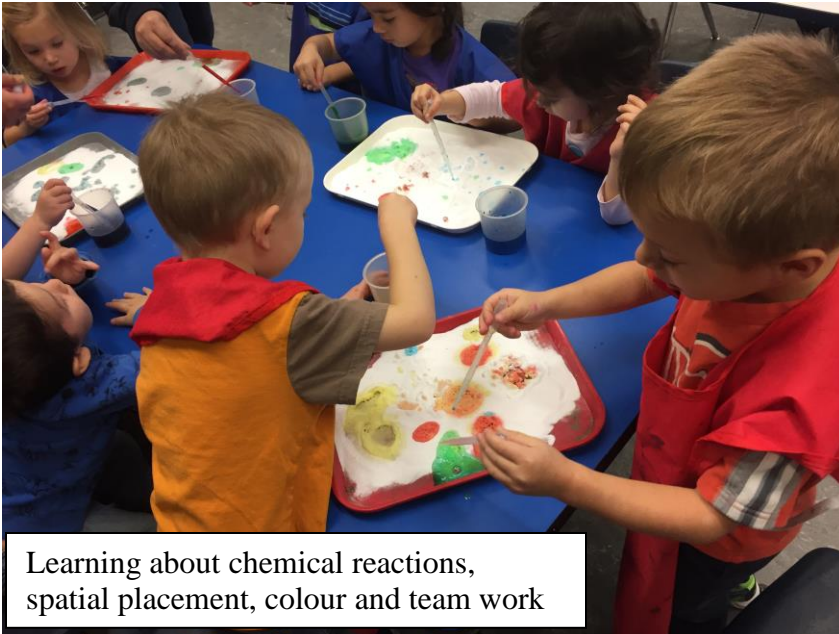
It is with the deepest respect and gratitude that I thank all of our partners for having confidence in us over the years. With this ongoing support, our vision grows.



Patricia Davison
Executive Director

Vision

We envision a future where happy and healthy children grow up to become healthy and happy adults who benefit Inuvik and society as a whole. The Children First Society's child development services help children to achieve their greatness!



Learning about chemical reactions, spatial placement, colour and team work



Exploring paint and colour

Family Participation

"Our family is so grateful to have access to this wonderful facility and appreciate the excellent staff and devoted ED. Thanks so much for being such an important part of our village :)."

Parent - Annual Parent Survey

"Great staff and centre. My children love being there every day. Thank you for all the support and great programs"

Parent - Annual Parent Survey

"I especially appreciate the emphasis on outdoor play and lack of screen time!"

Parent - Annual Parent Survey

Love the staff. Love how they communicate when picking up child of any issues or things to reinforce at home.

Parent - Annual Parent Survey

Community Involvement: My impression of Children's First is that they support the well being of ALL children in this community whether they regularly attend the programming or not. This is so impressive and admirable, this organization is definitely rooted in the community and it makes our family very proud to be a part of it. Generosity: whether it's planning community events for the kids or making sure there is a healthy snack available or offering extra craft supplies to take home, or holding a baby while you help your other children. I always feeling like I've received something when I leave any children's first event! Programming: Hands down the best daycare setting I've ever had my children enrolled in. Not only do the kids gets lots of free play time, but the planned activities are always fun and variable. The children are also often offered opportunities for local and/or cultural enrichment which is so valuable for a child's development.

Parent - Annual Parent Survey

Child Participation

Number of children participating in the program this fiscal year:

Under 2 years old: 30

2 years: 19

3- 4 year olds: 61

5 & Over: 52

We are staffed to meet the needs of enrollment. Our programs remain full for the numbers the program rooms are staffed. When the waiting list gets large enough we hire another staff to meet the need. Our community drop in programs increased this year. This meant more children and families are able to access the Centre. We had a number of Aurora College student families using our in house subsidized rates this winter.



Challenging our Abilities



Learning social skills and practicing helping hands

Out Reach Programs

Program	# of Sessions	Average Attendance	Ages	Time
Kids in the Kitchen	27	7 adults 14 children	1-10	6-8 pm
Community Play Group	42	4 adults 7 children	1-3	10-12 pm
Science Literacy	27	4 adults 6 children	1-4	10-12pm
Painting Party	10	8 adults 14 children	1-10	6-8 pm
Rhythm and Kids	14	5 adults 5 children	0-3	10-12 pm
Picnic in the Park	1	30 adults 70 children	All	2-5 pm
Movie Night	1	7 adults – 15 children	2-10	2-5 pm
Gwich'in Class	2	2 adults 3 children	4-10	6-7 pm
Halloween Party	1	20 adults 80 children	All	2-5 pm
Clothing Swap	2	5 adults 5 children	All	2-4 pm
Family Math	3	4 adults 8 children	1-4	2-4 pm
Imagination Station	5	5 adults 12 children s	2-10	6-8 pm
Gingerbread Decorating	1	7 adults 15 children	1-10	2-5 pm
Sliding party	8	8 adults 12 children	2-10	2-4 pm
Cookies and Crafts	6	6 adults 10 children	All	2-5 pm
Family Dance	1	50 adults 100 children	All	5-9 pm
Evening Gym	6	4 adults 10 children	2-10	6-7 pm
Baby Moving	42	4 adults 6 children	0-2	1:30-2:30pm
Fun with Science	4	8 adults 14 children	All	2-5 pm



Family Participation

The families of the children are our primary partners. From the 2019 annual family survey:

96% indicated as satisfactory or above, "My child is happy at the centre"

100% indicated, "The types of programs offered at the Centre meet my families needs." as satisfactory or above.

100 % indicated as satisfactory or above "My child enjoys the food served at the centre." and "The rotating menu provides a variety of nutritional and high quality meals and snacks that are fun to eat."



Community Participation

Currently we have the following involved in the project:

- Children First Board of Directors
- Executive director
- 1 full time Office Administrator
- 2 full time Early Childhood practitioners
- 8 Early Childhood supports
- 1 full time language educator
- 1 full time Developmental Support
- 1 full time kitchen staff
- 1 part time kitchen staff
- 1 part time custodial position
- Parents
- Elders
- Community members



Community Tea & Bannock



Greenhouse - Community Garden partnership

We continue to develop many strong partnerships with various organizations and departments. The following is a list of some of our ongoing partnerships. These too will increase as we continue to grow and strengthen our program.

This year we held:

Community events:

International Mud Day
Community Picnic
Mental health event
National Child Day
Children's Christmas Party
National Literacy day

Our Outreach Programs

Get active Events: x 2

Across generations and cultures

Elders Yoga

Community sessions x 77

Gym Drop In = 52

Visits to Elders = 3

Elders visits = 27

On the land = 8 days

Partnerships		
Organization	Description	Goal
Beaufort Delta Health and Social Services	Foster Families utilize our service. Children with Disabilities	Ensure all families have access to safe, reliable early learning and support programs.
Community Health Representative	Presentations on Hand washing, nutrition, healthy hears, personal safety etc.	Children, staff and families have the information and know of local resources they need to be safe and healthy
	Handouts on health issues, diseases, safety and nutrition	
	Public displays on health safety and nutrition topics	
Healthy Families	Co-sponsor community events, including Baby Get Active Network and share ideas and resources.	Support pregnant women, families with infants in healthy choices
Aurora College	Pilot ECD courses on site	Increase potential and professionalism in the field of early childhood. Leads to stronger support is available for families.
Aurora Research Institute	Presentations on current research and work	Children are informed about their surroundings and impacts of decisions regarding environment and social issues. Children have a basic understanding of people in the community and the work they do
	Visits to the research facility	
Inuvik Fire department	Fire hall visits	Children have a solid understanding of fire safety and people in the community and the work they do
	Presentations on safety	

Partnerships Continued		
Organization	Description	Goal
Town Of Inuvik	Use of MSRC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swimming - Play zone - Racquet courts - Ice rink - Community hall – Family Dance 	Children are exposed to a variety of environments and participate fully in the community
	Sharing of equipment and resources	
	Visits to public library	
	Jim Koe park sliding hill	
	Parks and walk ways	
	Back up emergency facility	
Inuvik Interagency	Member Co-sponsor community events Network and share ideas and resources.	Develop a strong foundation for community life



Kite Flying with our E3E reading buddies

Fun with Nature = Lots of STEM learning



How were the requested funds used?

The money that we received went directly to wages, rent, utilities and supplies. Attached you will find a detailed financial statement as well as a proposed budget for moving forward.

A facility this size has a large operating cost, to staff the building and keep it warm and secure. We were responsible for the day to day maintenance costs as well as all utilities. This year, once again, Children First Society maintained a balanced budget. If funding remains the same, we anticipate a balanced budget in the next fiscal year as well.

Using the 8 points from our service vision we strive to provide accessible quality care and learning for children birth to 12 years of age. We have a strong emphasis on learning through play that natural incorporates culture, STEM and nature learning.



Cutting Caribou – Serious Work