

HIGH FIVE®

Commitment to Children

All HIGH FIVE® Stakeholders have a responsibility to ensure:

a) **Environments for children will be:**

- ☆ Secure, safe and stable;
- ☆ Caring;
- ☆ Stimulating;
- ☆ Accessible;
- ☆ Challenging;
- ☆ Considerate of personal space needs and special needs;
- ☆ Equipped with age, size and ability-appropriate equipment, furniture and materials; and
- ☆ Welcoming to all races, cultures and abilities.

b) **Activities for children will:**

- ☆ Allow for a combination of self-directed and leader-directed activities;
- ☆ Provide children with opportunities for input, involvement and choice;
- ☆ Reflect both assessed and expressed needs;
- ☆ Provide opportunities for active participation and reflection;
- ☆ Encourage co-operation and friendship;
- ☆ Incorporate varied learning styles and developmental stages;
- ☆ Recognize uniqueness and encourage mastery; and
- ☆ Value and incorporate cultural, racial and linguistic diversity.

c) **Course instructors and Leaders will:**

- ☆ Ensure all children are treated with respect, honesty and trust;
- ☆ Recognize and accept children's individual needs and circumstances;
- ☆ Employ positive behaviour management methods;
- ☆ Help children value and celebrate diversity in the community;
- ☆ Consistently model appropriate behaviour; and
- ☆ Continually evaluate the program and their leadership to ensure improvements and reflect changing needs.

d) **Organizations will:**

- ☆ Encourage and support the ongoing development of staff and volunteers with regard to their knowledge and understanding of healthy child development;
- ☆ Ensure clear and on-going communication with parents and families;
- ☆ Encourage participation and input from children and families;
- ☆ Provide the organizational supports necessary to ensure that children feel safe, welcome, competent, connected, empowered and special.

