Children and Youth Planning Table of Waterloo Region

What children told us

In 2025, **75** children across Waterloo Region shared ideas with us about what a caring community looks and feels like. They talked about safety, friendship, fairness, helping others, and more. We listened carefully for ideas that came up again and again. This page shares some of the things children said!

Safety

Children said that feeling safe in their community is important.

> Lower the speed limit and add more stop signs.

> Not enough crossing guards so you have to wait a really long time and it's scary.

Friendship

Children said that friendship makes people feel happy and included.

> Even if you don't know someone, it does not mean you can't be friends.

> When you see people being lonely you should be with them.

> Friends make us not feel lonely.

Fairness

Children said that everyone should have what they need.

> Everyone gets equal food and water.

> Everyone has to have $1 so they can buy something.

Helping Others

Children said that helping others matters.

> If somebody is bullying somebody else, [...] why don't you just go over and say 'Hey, would you like to play with me?'

Communities for All

Children imagined communities with playgrounds, libraries, green spaces, and where everyone belongs.

> It has something for everyone!

> I liked being able to make my own laws.

What's Next?

1. We will keep sharing children's ideas with decision makers like mayors, principals, and other adults.
2. What children told us will help adults think about ways to make our community better for children.
3. We will listen to more children and share what they say with the community. That way, we can all listen and learn!

> One last thing... children want us to **Sit down and listen."**

[Read the full report here.]

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