

## Playground Program 2019 Final Report

From experience, the summer of 2019 was a good year for playground program compared to previous years. Most days there were ten or more children that participated and over the summer there were more than fifty different children that had come to playground program. Based on attendance records, the middle to end weeks of August showed most days had less children than normal most likely due to swimming lessons, camping, etc. There were some days that were busier than others, for example, most times swimming days brought in quite a few children compared to other theme days. Other theme days that were quite successful included days such as Superhero Day, Carnival Day, Animal Day, Hawaiian Day, and many others. Other activities included trips to the Library, Weneeda, Pleasantview, the EMS building, the RCMP detachment, Scoops, and the Museum to name a few. Kids were always kept busy with crafts, games, playing at the park, movies, and more.

This year there was time given to plan out the summer for the children. This year there was about 80 hours given which were used for organizing, sorting, prepping, shopping and more. This gave time to make sure the summer ran smoothly and that the next years to come can be easier too. With this being said, every year should have at least 24 hours of planning ahead of time so that the summer can be organized as well as fun. With this being said, there are also things that require help from the town. Having people come out to do “camps” with the children require planning months in advance and should be arranged by someone before the summer work season starts. For example, the science centre will come out a couple times in the summer to interact with the children, but they need to be booked in May etc. To go along with planning, the 2019 year had no budget for the playground program, yet we were told we could buy what we needed. There are not a lot of things needed every year, but it would be nice to know that there is maybe \$150 dollars to play around with.

This year was a long summer of almost nine full weeks. In following years it would be best to possibly only do eight or eight and a half weeks or only do four day weeks. On top of this, there is always the issue that if someone is busy and cannot work there is no one else to come in and we can only accept a certain number of children. We are suggesting it may be a good idea to hire someone as casual that could be called in on days when staff know they won't be there or if someone is sick so that the possibility of always having a full day of kids is there. There was also a day this summer where there were too many kids and it would have been nice to have that extra person.

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