

Research Matters...for Children

- These webpages are a place where we are sharing research for the benefit of kids.
- All communities in Canada have governments, educators, and community organizations who provide services for disabled children. We believe that for disabled children to take part in their community, organizations have to think specifically about disability. It is your right to have people who make decisions consider you and you have a right to have a say in how that happens.
- In research we have learned that children and families have to fit into the services that exist, specifically the ones designed for disability. These webpages are about the idea that services should fit to you.



Your Opinion Matters

- What you say matters and you should be listened to.
- You can ask questions and you should be given answers.
- You should receive accessible information, meaning it should be explained to you in a way that you can understand. If you don't understand it the first time, it is important that it is explained in different ways.
- In many cases, children aren't heard or a part of decision-making processes. Instead, there is often a pre-existing list of services which families must choose from.
- Children's preferences and input are often not sought out in policy and procedural decisions.



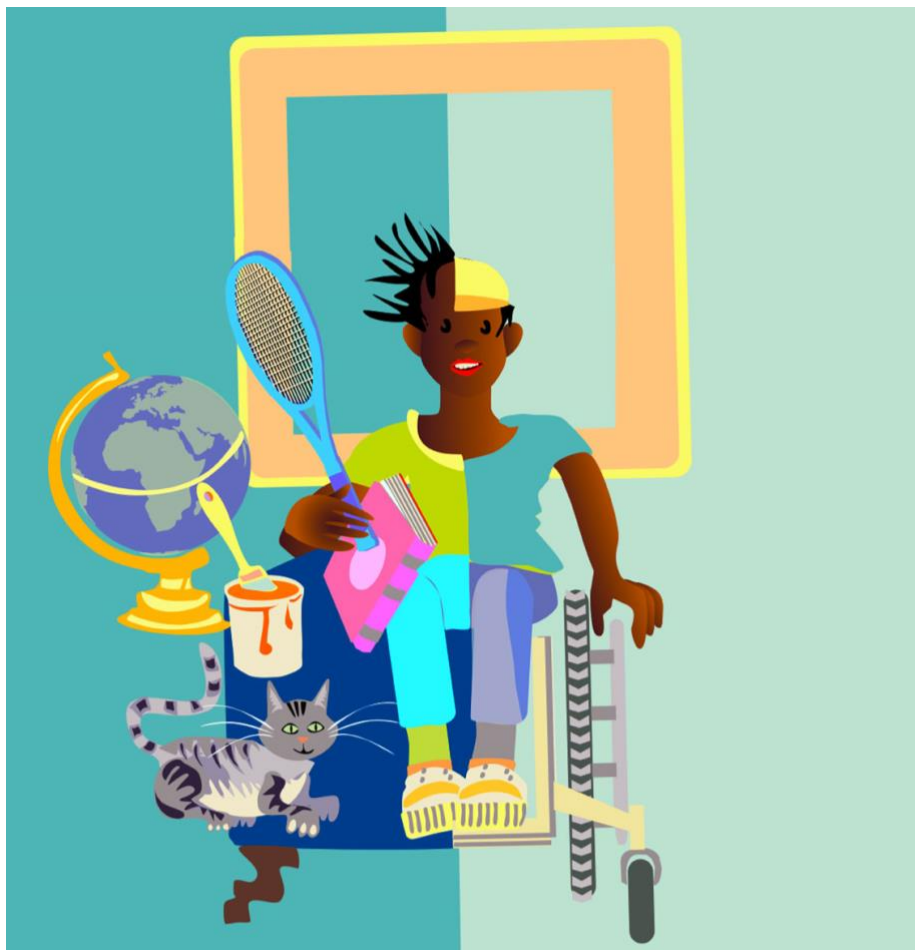
You Matter

- You are an important part of your communities.
- You should have adults in these communities who care about you and help you.
- You have a right to have friends and peers who are understanding or share your experience.
- You can choose what you want to take part in.



Disability Matters

- You have the right to embrace who you are.
- You have the right to know other people who have similar experiences to you.
- Disability may be a part of who you are and it should be valued. It is also important to remember that your disability does not define you. There are many parts of you that should be celebrated and recognized.
- Definitions of disabled childhoods often fail to recognize disability as part of your identity. These definitions do not recognize cultural, spiritual, and social identities or the characteristics and capabilities of disabled children.



Your Health and Learning Matter

- You should be able to get the services and support you need to help you learn and grow.
- These services and supports should make you feel good about your place in the community and who you are.
- You should have access to adults and peers that can help you.
- You should have access to services and supports no matter where you live and no matter what your experience is with disability.
- Some families have to choose between accessing intervention services and other programs, including programs that are important to their culture and language.
- For young children, it can be hard to access ASL and information about sign language and deaf culture. It is important to support the identity of deaf children.
- You should not feel discriminated against or left out because of disability or any other parts of who you are.



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