

Culture and Identity Survey



This study was funded by HIPCY Canada and The Human Early Learning Partnership. We were one of 6 agencies across Canada chosen to facilitate. The focus was on families who are connected with a family resource program. The purpose of this study was to get a sense of the needs of cultural communities in Oakville.

Oak Park Moms & Tots is located in the Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre and we serve families living in North Oakville. We strive to ensure our centre is a reflection of the diversity in our community. We specifically want to make sure families who typically don't make use of other services are participating at our centre, that includes families living in poverty, families who feel isolated, newcomers to Canada and families coping with a parent or child with a disability. Last year we served 430 families and 570 children.

Demographics of the 430 families we served last year

13% of OPMT families live below the poverty line

26% of OPMT families do not speak English or French in their home

48% of OPMT families were not born in Canada

20% of OPMT families immigrated to Canada in the last 5 years

43 families from Oakville participated in the study in January 2009 by completing a survey, or participating in community forums. The respondents included individuals from Russia, Pakistan, Philippines, Japan, Latin America, Mexico and India. 100% of respondents asked for more cultural services. Below are the four questions that were asked by facilitators and the responses received by percent.

1.) Do you feel you have a strong sense of identity?

- 70% Participants felt they have a strong sense of identity
- 12% Participants felt they do not have a strong sense of identity
- 19% Participants felt they are unsure about their identity

2.) How do you share your cultural identity with your children?

- 51% Food
- 49% Language
- 37% Festivals and Celebrations
- 26% Literature
- 23% Story telling
- 18% Media/Technology
- 16% Religion
- 16% Mom's Groups
- 14% Music
- 12% Travel

3.) What additional programs or activities would you like to have available in Oakville?

- 53% Cultural Centre (affordable venue to accommodate large groups)
- 44% Multilingual workshops on parenting and access to education
- 40% Cultural Dance, Art, Theatre and Music Programs
- 26% Resources at the library
- 23% Programs and additional education on how to navigate Canadian winters
- 16% Additional cultural programming for multi-generations

4.) Are there barriers in our community that limit your access to services?

- 40% Language
- 9% School System
- 9% Accessibility
- 9% Lack of advertising and awareness of services
- 9% Cost of services
- 4% Lack of multi-language service providers and community workers