

Fueling Creative Play After School

After School Clubs at Toronto Public Library are recognized as hubs of learning and creativity that promote personal growth for children. They offer kids ages 6-12 weekly interest-driven learning opportunities that vary based on participant focus and location. No two branches are alike!

Thanks to donor support, the Library is giving kids in After School Clubs the fuel they need to learn and play. Children are now eating, playing and learning in clubs across the city. Kids have access to healthy snacks and are feeling more connected and capable as they learn and discover.

The success of After School Clubs last year reaffirms the importance of this vital program:

- **11,466** children participated, an increase of 14% over 2023
- **39** TPL branches delivered **1,075** weekly programs
- **13** participating branches are in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

Positive feedback from kids, parents and caregivers from surveys administered during After School Clubs revealed:

- ✓ **98%** of kids liked or really liked the experience
- ✓ **83%** of kids said the best part is the activities
- ✓ **93%** of parents were satisfied or very satisfied
- ✓ **74%** of parents felt offering snacks helped their child focus and learn.

Together, we are fostering the development and well-being of children in Toronto. **Thank you.**

Goals of TPL's After School Clubs

- **Instilling a love for the Library:** children explore interests designed with specific learning objectives in mind.
- **Promoting skills development:** activities provide opportunities for kids to develop new skills and express their creativity.
- **Helping children foster meaningful relationships:** clubs create a supportive environment for children to form friendships and build positive connections.
- **Addressing food insecurity and support learning by providing nutritious food:** balanced and healthy snack options help combat food insecurity so children have the energy to participate in learning activities.

Read what parents had to say:



Albion Branch

"The Club at our branch has been a great environment for my children to come into weekly. Library staff are enthusiastic, creative and helpful!

-Parent of a participant

Malvern Branch

"My daughters and I are newcomers. They enjoy to come to the program because they can improve in English because Spanish are our first language. Also they meet more children and have more friends!

-Parent of a participant



New Neuro-diverse Programs

Virtual After School Clubs support neuro-diverse children year-round who often face barriers with in-person programs and activities. TPL offered 18 virtual clubs that supported 374 attendees in 2024. For the 2025 school year, plans will focus on enhancing and adapting in-person After School Clubs so programs are more accessible to children of all abilities.



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Newcomer Entrepreneurship Initiative at TPL

Research by Toronto Metropolitan University highlights a need for entrepreneurship coaching, programs, and resources specific to newcomers. Newcomer-led entrepreneurship can:

- ✓ Accelerate newcomer integration into Canada;
- ✓ Overcome deskilling and career gaps; and
- ✓ Improve financial success and resilience.

The donor funded Newcomer Entrepreneurship Initiative is breaking down barriers and equipping newcomers with the tools they need to succeed. Through free, tailored programming, the initiative supports aspiring entrepreneurs with skills training, community connections, and practical business guidance.

Objectives:

- 1. The Entrepreneur in Residence for Newcomers:** Access to expert one-on-one coaching to review business plans, address unique business needs and advance skills development.
- 2. Business Inc. Program for Newcomers:** Peer-learning to develop a network, access resources, and obtain a Business Seminar Series Certificate from Toronto Business Development Centre.
- 3. City-Wide Business and Entrepreneurship Programming:** Programs and outreach to encourage more newcomers to use entrepreneurship as a tool to improve financial success.

“I am an entrepreneur from Nigeria who came to Canada in 2023. My parents made and sold footwear so I learned from their business, and had a foundation and some prior knowledge. As an engineer, I am looking at identifying areas I could focus on in Canada, such as cyber security data and a concern to provide secured measures to avoid assessing risk. One of the key takeaways from this program was how it helped me understand who to target to be productive through networking and making connections.”



Nnamdi, participant at
Albert Campbell branch

Making a Measureable Impact

With your generous support, TPL is uniquely positioned to help newcomers launch and grow successful businesses.

2024 results include:



Program highlights and reach

- **24,000+ individuals reached** through initiative promotion, helping inspire entrepreneurship;
- **448 participants benefitted** from skills training workshops and events that increased community connections;
- **53 programs** delivered at 22 library branches where larger newcomer populations live;
- **68%** of attendees identified themselves as newcomers (in Canada under 5 years).



Business knowledge and confidence gained

- **95%** of participants **increased knowledge** of additional business resources and supports;
- **93% plan to apply learnings** like networking;
- **87% increased confidence** in launching/growing a business
- **80% feel more prepared** to start or grow a business;
- **73% strengthened their financial literacy**;
- **69% feel better equipped to navigate workplace challenges.**

When newcomers thrive, so does our city. Thank you for making this important work possible.

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