

Criteria

for Resource Selection

We applied the criteria below to ensure that only credible resources and information were used in the development of this Toolkit. This criteria may also be a useful tool for early learning and child care professionals when choosing future resources, regardless of the topic.

Print Resources

A. Authorship

- Authorship is clearly stated
- Credentials are provided
- Name is frequently seen in relation to the topic
- Known in field as a credible source by reputation
- Affiliated with a credible organization, such as a non-profit organization (e.g. CAHPERD, Canadian Diabetes Association), voluntary organization, an established foundation, government, university/college, patient/client support organization
- If author's name is not familiar, he/she is investigated in terms of biographical information provided, or through an Internet search
- May be reviewed by experts in the topic area, focus tested, or field-tested with target audience
- May be published by a credible publisher known to specialize in this type of resource/audience (e.g. university presses, government bodies, professional associations, scholarly societies)

B. Organization

- Canadian is first choice
- Non-profit, disease groups (e.g. HSFO), voluntary (e.g. Canadian Red Cross), government (municipal, provincial, federal), university/college, patient/client support organization
- Private sector companies where reputation is well established for appropriate physical activity and nutrition messages and/or products
- Produced with the support of appropriate sponsorship funding (i.e. not fast food, tobacco, alcohol, etc.)
- If a commercial sponsorship exists, the company and content is clearly indicated and presented as distinct from the physical activity/health information
- Has a good reputation in the community-at-large

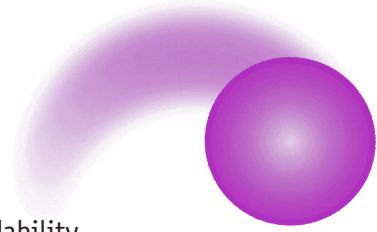
C. Content

- Original sources are clearly referenced and credible
- Claims relating to the benefits of a specific program or service are supported by appropriate, well-researched balanced evidence. They are not radically different from other ideas/programs/resources on the same topic
- Relevance – physical activity is the main focus; nutrition and positive self image related to physical activity is a secondary focus
- Free of stereotyping (no references to differences in boys versus girls or use of inappropriate language when referring to either sex e.g. “throws like a girl”)
- Informative within the Canadian context
- The information is based primarily on facts (versus opinion)
- Ideas/strategies/programs considered a “best” or “promising” practice

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- The most current edition of a resource/tool, etc. is used. If a resource has not been recently updated, it may be used and/or recommended if it is:
 - relevant
 - provides an historical perspective
 - a ground breaking report/program/idea



D. Usability

- Graphics, layout, language, spelling and grammar do not interfere with readability
- Literacy level is appropriate to the target population
- Allows flexibility in terms of use: who, where, when, length
- Promotes the use of common, on-hand supplies/equipment, when required
- Information/ideas/activities are appropriate for the age group and stage(s) of development
- The content is not too simple, too technical, too advanced, etc.

E. Accessibility

- The organization has the capacity/ability to respond to inquiries; easy to order and/or receive the information
- Affordable - free or low-cost information and services
- Support materials available: website, updates, service
- Any fees associated with the resource use, copyright restrictions, or legal statements are explained

Web Resources

While the criteria listed above are also applicable to web-based resources, additional criteria exist through a number of credible websites.

For information about using web-based resources, please refer to the References section below.

References

- Canadian Health Network; *Quality Assurance*; www.canadian-health-network.ca
- The University of British Columbia Library; *Criteria for Evaluating Print Resources*; www.library.ubc.ca/scieng/PrintEval.html
- The University of British Columbia Library; *Criteria for Evaluating Internet Resources*; www.library.ubc.ca/home/evaluating
- University of Otago; *Evaluation Criteria*; www.library.otago.ac.nz
- Recommended sites from The National Women's Health Information Center (a gateway to women's health-related information website from the United States government):
 - Health On the Net Foundation Code of Conduct (www.hon.ch/HONcode/Conduct_t.html)
 - White Paper: Criteria for Assessing the Quality of Health Information on the Internet (hitiweb.mitrectek.org/docs/criteria.html)
 - Evaluating Quality on the Net (www.hopetillman.com/findqual.html)