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Recreation can save our children: Group

Dance, stand-up comedy, movies and theatre are among the activities the United Way is promoting in an attempt to keep youth crime at a minimum in Calgary.

The local organization's Calgary Children's Initiative (CCI) revealed statistics Thursday showing recreation and social time is key to child success.

"Kids need to be involved in recreation during critical out-of-school hours," said Graham Clyne, director of the CCI.

"What they do during those hours has an enormous impact on their futures and the well being of the community."

On Thursday, the CCI revealed that children only spend 20% of their waking time in school, leaving them with hours to get involved in whatever they choose.

"The recent Profile of Youth Offenders in Calgary revealed less than 10% of all kids who get involved in crime participate in any kind of organized activities," said Clyne.

The initiative has vowed to continue working collaboratively on addressing barriers such as affordability, accessibility and availability that stand in the way of recreational participation by children and youth in Calgary.

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