

RESOLUTION 23R-03

To request the RI Board to consider appointing an ad hoc committee to examine the need for a program focused on children under the age of 12 years

Proposer(s): District 1030, England

1 WHEREAS, it is well recognized by educational psychologists and teachers that
2 early childhood education and development plays a critical role in shaping the
3 citizens of tomorrow, and

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5 WHEREAS, one of Rotary's seven areas of focus is the encouragement and
6 support of education and literacy, particularly for girls, and

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8 WHEREAS, RI currently does not have a recognized program for children under
9 12 years old. Many Rotary clubs and districts have developed and support
10 activities that contribute to children's early learning, and

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12 WHEREAS, if such an outreach were endorsed through a recognized RI program,
13 clubs would be encouraged to extend and strengthen their relationships with
14 schools and parents, and

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16 WHEREAS, such a program would provide an additional pathway for children to
17 progress through the Family of Rotary

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19 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
20 International consider appointing an ad hoc committee to examine the need for
21 and importance of developing a program focused on children under the age of 12
22 years.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

23 It is recognized that many Rotary clubs throughout the world have forged strong
24 links with local schools and parent organizations to help form, encourage, and
25 support activities for children under the age of 12 years old.

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27 The Rotary movement, with its strong ethics and areas of focus, provides a
28 powerful model for early childhood education which is recognized by partner
29 organizations, schools, and parent groups.

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31 Across the Rotary world, clubs for children less than 12 years of age have been
32 developed and encouraged at regional, district, and local levels without any unified
33 guidance from RI relating to their programs and position in our communities.

1 Such clubs often use locally derived descriptors, programs and branding. While
2 this does not detract from the excellent work that our clubs are achieving at the
3 local level, it is contrary to our needs and aspirations as an international
4 organization with globally recognized branding.

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6 The continued growth today of these clubs has many similarities to the need that
7 led to the recognition and developments of Rotary's Interact Club movement in
8 1962. A program for children in this age range will help them to learn about the
9 importance of working together to make a difference in their local and
10 international communities.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

11 If implemented, this resolution would result in an increase in expenses for RI.
12 Committee costs are primarily driven by meeting expenses and staff support.
13 Actual meeting expenses for a six-member committee would be nominal for a
14 virtual meeting, or approximately US\$24,500 for an in-person meeting, mainly
15 for airfare, hotel, and meals. The related indirect cost for additional time
16 provided by existing staff to support the committee is estimated at US\$33,000.