

RESOLUTION 24R-12

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
Rotary Club of São Paulo-Paraíso, District 4420, Brazil

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

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5 WHEREAS, RI seeks to develop the characteristics of friendship, including
6 mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust,
7 shared interests and experiences, and support with problems and difficulties, and

8
9 WHEREAS, RI currently does not have a recognized program for children under
10 12 years of age. Getting children involved in group activities is more than just fun;
11 it plays a major role in their development. Many clubs, particularly in the United
12 Kingdom, have developed and supported activities that go beyond socializing;
13 they play a large role in building a range of skills that are essential for life, and

14
15 WHEREAS, involving young children in Rotary activities is like establishing a
16 mini-society, teaching children the value of teamwork and collaboration. It helps
17 them to understand the importance of working together to reach a common goal,
18 which builds a sense of responsibility and accountability, and

19
20 WHEREAS, establishing a program for children of a younger age would provide a
21 pathway for these children to progress on to become members of Interact,
22 Rotaract and, ultimately, Rotary

23
24 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
25 International consider appointing an ad hoc committee to examine the need for,
26 and importance of, developing a program focused on children under the age of 12
27 years.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

28 It is recognized that throughout the world, many Rotary clubs have forged strong
29 links with local schools and parent organizations to help form, encourage, and
30 support activities for children under the age of 12 years old. The Rotary
31 movement, with its strong ethics and areas of focus, provides a powerful model
32 for early childhood education which is recognized by partner organizations,
33 schools, and parent groups.

1 These groups are often developed using national or local guidelines. It would be
2 more effective to develop RI guidelines and branding through an international
3 program so that families, schools, and community groups could develop a 'Rotary
4 relationship' to strengthen work on the seven areas of focus and provide a
5 seamless pathway through the Rotary programs.

6
7 An understanding of Rotary values will positively impact young children and
8 their communities, enabling them to build social skills and responsibility.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

9 If implemented, this resolution would result in an increase in expenses for RI.
10 Committee costs are primarily driven by meeting expenses and staff support.
11 Actual meeting expenses for a six-member committee would be nominal for a
12 virtual meeting, or approximately US\$22,800 for an in-person meeting, mainly
13 for airfare, hotel, and meals. The related indirect cost for additional time
14 provided by existing staff to support the committee is estimated at US\$33,000.