



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association British Columbia Chapter

CHHA-BC HOLIDAY PARTY

BY SHEHANA MIRZA, PROJECT COORDINATOR, CHHA-BC



On December 10, 2022, CHHA-BC hosted the very first Holiday Party for hard of hearing youth in the Conference Hall of the Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility. The event was organized to promote social interactions and friendships of hard of hearing youth as part of The Youth Peer Support Program. This event brought nine hard of hearing youth together in an inclusive platform to share holiday vibes with each other. The holiday celebration was perfect; everything went precisely as we had planned. Do you know how sometimes everything just works out exactly as you imagined it would? Yes, this was the case!

It was a beautiful, cold winter day with bits of drizzling. The theme of our party was neutral holiday vibes. We began the party at 12:30 pm on a fun, lovely Saturday afternoon and finished at 4:00 pm. It will always be a memorable holiday experience, and we will consider doing this every year. We had a committee of three volunteers who helped us run the event successfully.

The party started with a simple welcome from the organizers and was followed by brief introductions to each of us. Next, we started our first icebreaker session, called The Elephant Game. Then we opened our hot chocolate station, craft table and board games, and everyone was free to choose whatever they wanted to do. With our volunteers' help, the hot chocolate station presentation was exceptional. Also, we had a separate table set up for lunch full of delicious pizza that everyone enjoyed.

The group enjoyed board games of their choice. There are many solid reasons to set up board games or to play cards when everyone is together at a gathering. These interactions led to long periods of giggling, in addition to encouraging meaningful and interesting conversations. The best part is that these kinds of activities offer an incredible range of general, physical, and mental health perks as well.

Following lunch was a team-building session that involved a Gingerbread House-Making Competition among two groups. Participants were asked to decorate the most attractive and creative gingerbread houses. The activity was exciting, fast-paced, and most likely the best time the teams had at the party.

Next, a holiday message by the President of CHHA BC, Dr. Ruth Warick, was shared with the group. Then we stepped into our next session, Charades, and the group really enjoyed taking part. Charades can increase one's verbal and nonverbal communication abilities and enhance social skills through cooperation and teamwork. The group loved playing this game.

Next, we announced our raffle winner for the day and gave away prizes. Finally, the photo booth was open, and the group enjoyed taking pictures of themselves and each other. Given how magical and amazing the photo booth made the gathering feel, we would do it again. In addition to recording some of their finest memories, it allowed participants to have fun and get creative. Watching our group having a good time together and laughing together was heart-warming.

