

Letter of Endorsement for DotKids Foundation

Dear ICANN,

The Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) believes the proposed gTLD, Dotkids (.kids), should be a domain dedicated to serving specifically the child community. The domain should recognize and care for the special needs of children as the principle beneficiary and primary end-users. In view of this, ACEI commends the DotKids Foundation, a not-for-profit, community-based organization, for its commitment and mission to create a kids-friendly cyberspace that protects children from inappropriate content and promotes child participation in Internet governance. In this way, the DotKids Foundation initiative is distinct from the applications submitted by two large companies whose motives for the Dotkids gTLD may not be child-centric.

ACEI recognizes that the DotKids Foundation strictly adheres to the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)¹. Its express complaint-response system² together with the Monitoring Committee³ are believed to be an effective portal in monitoring the registrants. In the meantime, the DotKids Foundation establishes a core mandate to advocate for a kids-friendly namespace.

ACEI also recognizes that the DotKids Foundation is dedicated to providing the best environment for children's participation, contributing funds to projects that support the training of children to participate in the global Internet government discourse, and incorporating children-led groups into the children advisory council⁴.

ACEI, therefore, supports the DotKids Foundation's mission and principles in promoting a kids-friendly Internet space, encouraging children participation in Internet Governance discussion, and supporting the children community through the proposed .kids initiative. With interest, ACEI hopes to follow the DotKids Foundation's future development and provide continued support to its shared, rights-based goals and principles.

Yours sincerely,



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Executive Director
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Appendix

1. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

It is the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights, ratified by 194 countries. The DotKids Foundation strives to protect children from materials “likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child’s education, or to be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, as stated in Article 32 of the UNCRC.

2. Express complaint-response system and the Monitoring Committee

An online portal will accept complaints reports of any inappropriate content from the public through a structured report form, followed by a takedown decision process. The Monitoring Committee, which consists of members of the foundation, individuals from the Professional Advisory Council and other qualified children’s rights, children services or children centric organization, oversees the registrants. In case of violation of the guiding principles that results in the proliferation of materials likely to harm and disturb the kids, the registrants will be subjected to cancelation, suspension and takedown of the domain name.

3. Kids-friendly namespace

The establishment of a core mandate advocates the kids-friendly namespace through the use of kids-friendly language, graphics and presentation formats and the recruitment of children information experts, all of which entitle children a safe platform for knowledge exploration, free expression and participation in global policies, especially Internet governance.

4. Children advisory council

Children are entitled the freedom to express opinions freely in matters affecting their social, economic, religious, cultural and political life. Being a major stakeholder of escalating involvement in the cyber world, children could be active contributors to the information society. Therefore, a children advisory council would be set up as part of the organizational structure and governance to facilitate children’s participation. It serves as a child-friendly discussion environment for child representatives from various child-led organization, where different concern groups are free to express their opinion.