



NATIONAL CHILD DAY TOOLKIT

We have #8MillionReasons to celebrate National Child Day on November 20th!





National Child Day is celebrated in Canada on November 20th in recognition of our country's commitment to upholding the rights of children.

There are 8 million kids in Canada, and they all have something in common—their rights!

The purpose of this toolkit is to provide quick and easy ideas to celebrate National Child Day in schools, after-school clubs, children's hospitals, and other places that support children and youth.

Overview

There are 8 million kids in Canada and they all have something in common – their rights!

National Child Day is celebrated annually in Canada on November 20th in recognition of our country's commitment to upholding the rights of children. In 1989 Canada signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC protects the rights of children with 54 articles that provide us with a solid road map of what is needed to raise healthy and happy children and adolescents.

This year National Child Day marks the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It's a unique opportunity to celebrate Canada's 8 million children and to identify the urgent issues that need action so that every child in Canada to achieve their full potential!

While many Canadians think of this as being a world-leading country for kids, we rank 25th out of 41 wealthy nations for the wellbeing of children. One third of Canada's kids are not able to achieve their full potential due to violations of their rights to a safe and healthy childhood. The recent [Raising Canada report](#) by Children First Canada and the O'Brien Institute for Public Health identified the top 10 threats to childhood and called on the federal government to take action.

Children First Canada has a bold and ambitious vision that together we can make Canada the best place in the world for kids to grow up! National Child Day is a great opportunity for children, youth and adults to work together to promote the rights of every child in Canada!

Top 10 Threats to Canadian Children



Fun and Easy Ways to Celebrate National Child Day

Learn!

Watch the [video](#) with children and youth and learn together about the rights of every child.

Display the poster of the United Nations Convention on Right of the Child, in child friendly language (see next page in this document).
Download the file or order a printed version from our website [here](#).

Discuss rights versus wants – rights are what you need to survive and thrive, *wants* are things that are nice to have but not essential to a safe and healthy childhood.

Arts and Crafts!

Make National Child Day posters or flags that represent the rights of children! Decorate your school, center or hospital etc.

March!

Organize a march in the halls of your school, centre, or hospital, and invite the children/youth

to display the posters/flags that they created to represent their rights (see Arts and Crafts above) and sing songs or speak up about their rights.

Dress up!

Ask children to choose a right and dress up in a way that represents that right on National Child Day (ex. For the right to education, dress up like a teacher; for the right to health, dress up like a doctor or nurse, etc.)

Dance!

Choreograph a dance or a flash-mob around the theme of children's rights.

Other Activities!

The Government of Canada has produced an activity guide with many more ideas. Be sure to check out the great resources [available online](#), including this [colouring page](#).



Resources

Display these posters in your school, club, hospital or workplace:

[Download](#) or [purchase](#) the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child poster, pictured below.



[Download](#) the National Child Day poster pictured below.



Children First Canada is proud to celebrate National Child Day with our partners from coast to coast to coast. Children First Canada is an alliance of Canada's leading children's charities and hospitals, research institutes, corporations that invest in kids, teachers, parents and kids themselves. We have a bold and ambitious vision that together we can make Canada the best place in the world for kids to grow up!

Join the celebrations by attending any of our events or hosting an event in your school, organization, or online.

To learn more about National Child Day go to www.nationalchildday.org.

The National Child Day Toolkit and other resources are produced by Children First Canada thanks to the generous support from our sponsors and partners:



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