



Alberta
National Child Day
Collaborative

Alberta Centre for
Child, Family and
Community
Research

Alberta Recreation
and Parks
Association

Alberta Resource
Centre for Quality
Enhancement

Boys & Girls Clubs
of Alberta

Child Friendly
Edmonton, City of
Edmonton

ECMap
Early Child
Development
Mapping Project of
Alberta

Office of the Child and
Youth Advocate

Success By 6®
United Way of the
Alberta Capital Region

UpStart
United Way of Calgary
and Area

YMCA of Northern
Alberta

Visit:
[successby6edmonton.info/
national-child-day/](http://successby6edmonton.info/national-child-day/)

Twitter: @NatlChildDay

November 2013

On behalf of the National Child Day collaborative we would like to **invite** you to assist our community in raising awareness of marginalized children in Alberta through the 2013 National Child Day initiative.

What is National Child Day?

National Child Day is celebrated annually on **November 20th** and is a specially designated day to mark two historic events: the 1959 signing by Canada of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out these rights in 54 articles and in a set of Optional Protocols. There are rights to:

- Protection (e.g., from abuse, exploitation and harmful substances)
- Provision (e.g., for education, health care and an adequate standard of living)
- Participation (e.g., listening to children's views and respecting their evolving capacities)

Specific protections and provisions for vulnerable populations such as Aboriginal children and children with disabilities.

This year's theme is "It's Our Right...to be Heard", which is grounded in Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is the right of all children and youth to be given the opportunity to participate, and to be heard, when decisions are being made about them. We believe that it is of utmost importance to teach children and youth that their voice has value, and to encourage their ability to speak up...and be heard. One important aspect of this is a focus on the language and communication skills of young children and how we can support their development.

Did you know 21% of children in Alberta are experiencing difficulty in language and thinking skills and 28% in communication and general knowledge when they enter Kindergarten? (Alberta EDI 2009-2012). We know the early years of a child's life sets a foundation for life long learning and development. We have a role to play to ensure children have the experiences they need for the best possible start.

You can make a difference!

Here are a few ideas of how to celebrate this important day:

- Visit www.successby6edmonton.info for ways schools, individuals, families, and community groups can to get involved
- Have fun! Find fun ways to engage children in expressing their thoughts and ideas. Paint, draw, dress up and act out a play, help children write their own story. We have a lot to learn from their wisdom
- Share information on National Child Day with families in your school
- Check out www.alberta.ca/advocate (Office of the Child and Youth Advocate) on November 20, 2013 to watch the release of the video "We Have A Voice"
- Capture the spirit of National Child Day by sharing your stories, photos or videos on Twitter @NatlChildDay #NCDAAlberta2013

Cont'd

Resources you can use in your classrooms

Share and review the following books:

- * *For Every Child*. UNICEF Publication
- * *Whoever You Are*. Mem Fox book
- * *To Be a Kid*. What does it mean to be a kid?
- * *Carpet Boy's Gift*

Curriculum Ideas to Support For Every Child book:

- On the UNICEF website are *Cartoons for Children's Rights* <http://www.unicef.org/crcartoons/> which would add as discussion starters and furthering understanding - as well as being in a different format.
- Also from UNICEF: How to Make Your Classroom a Global Schoolhouse! http://www.unicef.ca/sites/default/files/imce_uploads/UTILITY%20NAV/TEACHERS/DOCS/GC/helpmake.pdf
- <http://www.unicef.ca/en/teachers/article/elementary-resources>
- Again, from UNICEF: Rights, Wants and Needs activity card kit http://www.unicef.ca/sites/default/files/imce_uploads/UTILITY%20NAV/TEACHERS/DOCS/GC/EngRightsKit02.pdf for use with primary classes after introducing the rights with the book
- Info about *Rights in the Sun* offered by the non-profit John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human
- Rights is also an excellent resource <http://www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca/documents/bibliography/Rights-in-the-Sun.pdf>

Classroom Ideas:

- * Discuss and sort 'Need' and 'Wants' cards (UNICEF resource). How do we identify something as a 'Need' or 'Want'?
- * Complete a Venn diagram on needs vs. wants
- * Free the children website for looking at child labour
- * Shared viewing of Unicef cartoons on Children's Rights. Discuss and reflect. Respond to favourite
- * Individual or small groups could prepare tableau/poster/presentation on one of the rights
- * *Rights in the Sun* presentation
- * Sing *It's a Small World After All*
- * Display UN Convention of Rights of the child poster
http://www.unicef.org/southafrica/SAF_resources_crcchildfriendly.pdf
- * Play it Fair! http://equitas.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/PIF_Pocket-Toolkit_FINAL_ENG.pdf
- * On National Child Day games and resources, specifically a game called Grasshopper's Bridge, which focuses on the human rights values of inclusion, respect and cooperation
*Although the game is designed for ages 11-12 years, it works extremely well with all age groups.
To adapt the game for ages 6-10 years we would suggest that you increase the number of sheets of newspaper that you give the children while reducing the distance that they are travelling.*
If you have any questions about this game or if you would like the full National Child Day activity booklet with 23 corresponding games at no cost please contactnationalchildday@equitas.org

(Information from Edmonton Public Schools Reading Consultant, June 2012)

Thank you for taking part in National Child Day!
Alberta National Child Day Collaborative

It's Our Right to Be Heard!