



Media Release

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Ways to recognize National Child Day on November 20

Our Kids Network celebrates 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Halton Region, Ontario – Every November 20th, Canadians celebrate National Child Day to draw attention to children's rights and recognize two historic events: the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1959, and the UN adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the convention.

In Halton Region, Our Kids Network (OKN) uses the annual occasion to encourage everyone to think about and discuss children's rights in our community and around the world.

Elena DiBattista is the Director of OKN. She said National Child Day recognizes that children have specific rights and are capable of participating in their own development and in society.

"Children and youth have the right to be respected, listened to, and protected. These are building blocks for healthy development and are well worth celebrating."

The UNCRC has been ratified by more countries than any other human rights treaty. It has 54 articles that can be grouped into three categories: rights of provision (to education, healthcare); rights of protection (from abuse and neglect); and rights of participation (the right to be heard in matters affecting them).

"Ensuring that children have these rights is everyone's responsibility," DiBattista said. "Children, parents, society, and governments all play a role. At Our Kids Network, our role is to support and share useful information and research with professionals who work with children, youth, and families in our community."

Our Kids Network shared some ways adults recognize and celebrate children's rights with young people:

1. Discuss the rights with children and youth in your life.
2. Donate to an organization that works to make the lives of children better.
3. Donate children's supplies to a local charity.
4. Sponsor a child. Foster a child.
5. Send a child a letter of appreciation. Here's an [example](#) to get you started.
6. Appreciate all that Canada has to offer children and youth now, and consider the work still to be done.
7. Introduce a child to something new in their community.
8. Write a letter to local politicians supporting children's rights.
9. Learn about the Indigenous culture and community in Canada.

10. Send the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) to someone who works with children, and tell them they are doing a great job.

For more ideas, the [OKN blog](#) provides 30 ideas for adults and professionals who work with families to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child this National Child Day. UNICEF Canada also provides resources at [unicef.ca](#), including a [poster](#) that lists the rights outlined in the UN Convention in child-friendly language.

OKN would like people to use this day to think about how to create safe and caring environments for our community's children and youth so they can develop to their full potential. They also invite parents and caregivers to visit Halton iparent ([haltoniparent.ca](#)) to find links to programs and services and resources to help parents navigate all the ages and stages of child development.

Our Kids Network is a Halton-wide partnership of organizations and agencies serving children and youth that embraces the vision "All children and youth thrive." For more information about Our Kids Network, visit [ourkidsnetwork.ca](#).

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