



# Celebrate National Child Day – November 20th

**M**ark November 20th — National Child Day — on your calendar. This is the day when people across the country take time each year to celebrate Canada’s most precious resource — our children.

It’s a day to remember that children need love and respect to grow to their full potential. It’s a day to marvel at their uniqueness and all they have to offer. It’s a day to celebrate the family and think about how adults affect the development of children close to them.

National Child Day is a relatively young celebration which came about through the efforts of Our Kids (a group of volunteers dedicated to meeting the basic needs of children in the Ottawa-Carleton area) and RESULTS Canada (an organization working for the elimination of child poverty and hunger around the world).

National Child Day was proclaimed by the Government of Canada on March 19th, 1993 to commemorate two historic events for children — the adoption of the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of the Child* in 1959 and the UN adoption of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* in 1989.

Wear a royal blue ribbon to show support for National Child Day. Canada’s future depends on the healthy development of our children. The blue ribbon shows that you think Canada’s children deserve prime consideration in all economic, social and political decisions, policies, programs and expenditures.

## Ideas for Celebrating National Child Day

<b>1</b> Wear a royal blue ribbon.	<b>11</b> Cook a celebration dinner and invite friends and family.
<b>2</b> Attend a special event with a child.	<b>12</b> Make a scrapbook highlighting a child’s past week, month or year.
<b>3</b> Ask a child for advice.	<b>13</b> Think back on the great moments of your childhood.
<b>4</b> Introduce your child to your place of work.	<b>14</b> Thank relatives for caring for you as a child.
<b>5</b> Plan a special visit to your child’s class or child care setting.	<b>15</b> Reflect on the rights of children.
<b>6</b> Send a card to a child, caregiver or teacher in honour of the day.	<b>16</b> Send a package of toys, clothes or books to children in need.
<b>7</b> Explore ways to make your neighbourhood a safer place for children.	<b>17</b> Raise awareness for children’s issues by talking to local politicians.
<b>8</b> Organize a fundraiser to support activities for children.	<b>18</b> Donate time or money to a children’s charity.
<b>9</b> Invite a child out for a meal or snack.	<b>19</b> Tell a neighbour or friend about National Child Day.
<b>10</b> Share a book or story with a child.	<b>20</b> Consider ways you can make Canada a better place for children.

### First Call for Children

The United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, signed by Canada, states that:

“In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.” (Article 3.1)