

# National Child Day

November 20, 2022

*The City of Winnipeg's Recreation Services Division has worked in collaboration with Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education to recognize National Child Day, marked every year on November 20.*

Celebrated since 1993, National Child Day commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (November 20, 1959) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (November 20, 1989). The Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international treaty that recognizes the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of children, and provides us with a roadmap of what is needed to raise healthy and happy children.

Once again this fall, various Children's Free Play programs (ages 6-12) were invited to participate by building a "Tree of Children's Rights" at their sites. They were also invited to participate in the "Race to Inclusion" games. The activities were a great way to give children a chance to learn about their rights and responsibilities, and share their ideas on what is important to them with the broader community.



## Tree of Children's Rights Activity Stages

### 1. Learn About Children's Rights

Free Play programs were provided with a Tree of Children's Rights Booklet, prepared by *Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education*. The booklet featured an easy activity to get children thinking about their rights and expressing which rights are important to them. Recreation Technicians led their participants through the activity throughout the week of November 14-21, 2022.

### 2. Design Children's Rights Leaves

After completing the activity, participants created artwork about Children's Rights, and used what they learned to inspire their designs for **Children's Rights leaves**.

### 3. Create and Share Your Tree of Children's Rights

As a group, participants then created a Tree of Children's Rights in order to express what they had learned about rights, and share their ideas about rights with other children, adult influencers, and their communities.

# Race to Inclusion Activity Stages

## 1. Learn About Children’s Rights and Inclusion

Free Play programs were provided a Race to Inclusion Booklet, prepared by *Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education*. The booklet featured activities and challenges to support them in the promotion of inclusion at their sites.

## 2. Complete Race to Inclusion Activity

Free Play participants and leaders participated in the various activities and children came up with some new names for planets! The group games supported their overall awareness and promotion of inclusion.

## 3. Have Discussion on the Promotion of Inclusion

Once the activities were completed, the group had a discussion on rights and responsibilities, and inclusion. Sites also integrated other Play it Fair! games as well.

# 5 Free Play Programs, and 28 Children

A total of 5 Free Play programs and 28 children participated in the National Child Day celebration this year. Program locations were able to either post their Tree of Children’s Rights for the community to see and ask questions or participated in the Race to Inclusion activities and challenges.

Sites	Participants
Heritage Victoria Community Centre	3
Westdale Pool Building	2
Marlene St. Resource Centre	3
East Elmwood Community Centre	15
Prince Edward School	5

The overall feedback from Recreation Technicians and participants was positive. Children reported learning about their rights and challenging themselves. They had fun creating the artwork for their trees and participating in the activities!

Taking part in this celebration allowed participants and our employees to join in the conversation and activities that highlight positive values, children’s rights, and inclusion.

This was also an opportunity to be a part of a national event in support of children’s rights!

## Testimonials

*“They enjoyed discussing the children’s rights and the children got a better understanding of their rights.”*

– Marlene St. Resource Centre

*“The kids mentioned that they learned more about other kids.”*

– Heritage Victoria Community Centre

*“They learned that they’re all different from one another and that’s okay.”*

– Westdale Pool Building

*“The children were surprised to learn they had rights.”*

– East Elmwood Community Centre

*“They learned about their rights and started good conversation.”*

– Prince Edward School

