

National Child Day

November 20, 2019

The City of Winnipeg's Recreation Services Division has worked with Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education, to recognize National Child Day 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). These documents spell out the basic human rights to which all children under the age of 18 are entitled.

“This day is dedicated to promoting and safeguarding the rights of children and youth.”

This year's activity was intended to celebrate National Child Day, and mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of a Child.

Various Children's Free Play programs (ages 6-12) were invited to participate this year again, by building a “Tree of Children's Rights” at their sites. Children were able to learn about their rights and responsibilities, and share their ideas on what is important to them with the broader community.



ACTIVITY STAGES

1. Learn about Children's Rights

Free Play programs were provided with a Tree of Children's Rights Booklet, prepared by Equitas. The booklet featured an easy activity to get children thinking about their rights and expressing which rights are important to them. Participants were led through the activity the week of November 19-27, 2019.

2. Design Children's Rights Leaves

After completing the activity, participant created artwork about Children's Rights, and used what they learned to inform 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.

“A tree was used for this activity for its symbolic meanings. The roots of the tree symbolize the work we do with children as being grounded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The branches symbolize our commitments to the protection of children's rights and finally the leaves are the expression of why children's rights are important, from children themselves.”

Equitas



11 Free Play Programs, and 127 children

A total of 11 Free Play Programs, and 127 children participated in the National Child Day celebration this year – an increase from 8 programs and 59 participants in 2018.

All program locations were able to post their Tree of Children’s Rights for the community to see and ask questions.

Free Play Program Locations	Date	Number of Participants	Number of Leaves Created	Post for Community
Mayfair Recreation Centre	November 20	15	7	Main Lobby
Broadway Neighbourhood Centre	November 20	11	6	Main Lobby
Burton Cummings Community Centre	November 19	11	5	Programming Room
East End Community Centre	November 20	11	14	Multi-Purpose Room
Prince Edward School	November 20	11	13	Up During Programming
Archwood School	November 20	30	10	Up During Programming
Marion School	November 27	16	8	Community Use Room
Sergeant Tommy Prince Place	November 19	27	26	Window Front Lobby
Victory School	November 20	32	15	Programming Room Door
Ralph Brown Community Centre	November 20	20	15	Main Programming Area
Turtle Island Neighbourhood Centre	November 20	22	16	Main Lobby

Participation in this national even generated positive feedback from staff and participants. Children reported learning about their rights and positive values, while having fun creating the artwork for their trees.

TESTIMONIALS

“The kids engaged well and participated in the discussions”
Sergeant Tommy Prince Place

“Children enjoy the activity as this was the first special Equitas activity this site has done, so it was new for them”
Prince Edward School

“They enjoyed making the tree together as a team and writing down their rights that they found important”
Prince Edward School

“Overall good participation, the kids were receptive to concept and understanding of conversations”
Ralph Brown Community Centre

“The children liked how fun the games were and they liked working as a team”
Archwood Community Centre

“Children said it was interesting because there were children from different countries who talked about how where they come from kids did not get to go to school”
Archwood Community Centre

“They liked thinking about various rights children in other cultures or areas of the world that might not experience the same access to rights they have, living in Canada”
Marion School

“Our Leader did an excellent job in delivering the information by first explaining children’s rights, then doing the suggested activity”
Sergeant Tommy Prince Place

“The kids enjoyed making/decorating their leaves and seeing them displayed in the lobby”
Sergeant Tommy Prince Place

