

## Human Rights

### These rights also mean that your children are expected to:

- take advantage of the education that is offered to them by attending school regularly, respecting school rules and doing their best.
- show respect for the cultures and traditions of adults and children in their schools and communities.
- refrain from discriminating against others.
- help develop an environment that is understanding, tolerant, and peaceful.
- take part in play and recreation activities as part of their school day.

### Children also have a responsibility to:

- show respect to all family members.
- accept that parents are usually the best people to make decisions about children's lives.
- state their opinions thoughtfully and respectfully.
- treat their home and community with respect.

### How do these rights affect what happens at home?

As a parent, you should ensure that your children have:

- healthy food and sufficient rest.
- regular doctor and dental check-ups.
- a clean safe home and play environment.
- time for school and time for play.
- a right to give their opinion on matters that affect them and their environment.

### “The Rights of a Child”

This brochure is one in a series sponsored by the VSB SWIS program and produced collectively by a group of ESL teachers and the VSB MCLW team.



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## The Rights of a Child



***What These Mean in your Child's Education***

## Human Rights

*On November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1989, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 'Declaration of the Rights of a Child'. 193 countries, including Canada, have agreed to the principles of this declaration. In Canada, anyone under the age of 18 is considered to be a child.*

### What are rights?

Rights are basic freedoms that every person is entitled to regardless of age, race, colour, gender, language, religion, political belief, national or social origin.



### What does the 'Declaration of the Rights of a Child' state?

The 'Declaration of the Rights of a Child' states that:

- children, because they are physically and mentally immature, need special protection.
- children should have the best that parents and the Canadian government can give them.
- these rights apply to all children regardless of their race, colour, gender, language, political beliefs, national or social origin.

### What are some of the rights that are included in the 'Declaration of the Rights of a Child'?

That all children have a right to:

- develop socially and emotionally with freedom and dignity.
- special treatment and care if they are physically or mentally handicapped.
- free and compulsory education that promotes their culture and develops their talents.

- play and recreation.
- protection from all forms of neglect.
- protection from any form of discrimination.
- be brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance, friendship and peace.

### How does this affect your children in school?

These rights ensure that your children have access to a free education that:

- respects their name, nationality, culture, and traditions.
- treats them with dignity.
- protects them from any form of discrimination.
- provides an environment that is understanding, tolerant, and peaceful.
- develops their talents.
- includes time for play and recreation.
- provides the special treatment and care that they may require.