

1) What are Children's Rights?

We think your kid is pretty special. Without having even met your young one we can say that with some certainty, because we know for sure that your child and their classmates are among the first children in human history to enjoy their entire lives as rights holders.

The rights your child enjoys are outlined in the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC), which Canada ratified in 1991. All children under the age of 18 are guaranteed the right to life, survival, and development; to have their best interests looked after, to be meaningfully engaged, all without discrimination of any kind. There are 54 articles in the convention and they can be sorted under 4 basic pillars:

- 1) the right to be safe
- 2) the right to be healthy
- 3) the right to be heard
- 4) the right to be yourself

The UNCRC marks an amazing change in the way we view children and childhood. For example, during the industrial revolution children were expected to work in dangerous conditions. Kids were often viewed by society as a nuisance, and were merely small, future adults. **We now understand how precious and important childhood is.**

The [UNCRC](#) represents one of the most thorough and well-researched documents on what makes a healthy child. It balances protecting children from harm, acknowledges childhood vulnerability, but also recognizes children as capable humans who can and must have a say in matters that affect them. These rights ensure that children will not only have a healthy childhood but at each stage of their development will learn the tools to leading a successful life in adulthood, all with the help of an adult community who are looking after their best interest.

This year

We are pleased to let you know that during this school year, your child will be learning about their rights, in the classroom and at home with you. They will learn about their rights and responsibilities—both as a child and as a global citizen.

Throughout the year we will occasionally send home short and engaging homework assignments for parents and children to do together. We will also continually provide you with supports and information. Check back here for the rest of the school year for new articles and information to support you as a parent.

****NOTE:** Chartwell would like this for their website. The principle requested that they be graphically designed. Sending a few campaign jpegs, including our logo should probably suffice.