

On **November 20**, we celebrate **National Child Day** and recognize the rights, voices, and potential of all children. Children are the heart of our families, communities, and future generations. They carry the gifts of curiosity, resilience, culture, and hope.

Let us honour the importance of creating safe, inclusive, and nurturing environments where every child is respected, heard, and supported to grow in their identity and sense of belonging. Celebrate the unique strengths of every child and our shared responsibility to help them thrive.

**National Child Day Activities for Educators and Families**

1. Celebrate Children's Voices ‘My Voice Matters’

- Invite children to share their ideas about what makes them feel happy, safe, and included.
- Record their responses on a mural, chart paper, or digital slideshow.
- Display their thoughts for families and visitors to see.

2. Family Storytelling Circle

- Encourage families to share stories, traditions, songs, or cultural teachings.
- Create opportunities for children to learn about the diversity of families and communities.
- Include Indigenous stories and teachings where appropriate and with respect to local protocols.

4. Friendship and Kindness Tree ‘Growing Kindness’

- Create a large tree display.
- Each child adds a leaf describing a kind act they performed or experienced.
- Watch the tree grow throughout the day or week.

5. Children's Choice Day

- Encourage children to help plan part of the day's activities.
- Offer choices for games, books, songs, snacks, or learning centres.
- Discuss how having choices helps children feel respected and valued.

6. Community Helpers Appreciation ‘Thank You Cards’

- Help children create cards or artwork for community helpers such as Elders, firefighters, healthcare workers, educators, or library staff.
- Deliver the cards as a gesture of appreciation.

7. A Gallery Walk

- Invite children to draw or paint what being a child means to them.
- Create a gallery walk for families.
- Encourage children to explain their artwork.

8. Family Play Challenge

- Send home a list of simple family activities:
  - Build a fort
  - Read a favourite story
  - Go for a nature walk
  - Play a traditional game
  - Have a family dance party
- Families can share photos or stories about their experiences.

9. Circle of Gratitude ‘We Are Important’

- Gather in a circle and invite each child to share something they are proud of.
- Peers can offer encouraging words.
- Focus on belonging, self-esteem, and community.

10. Outdoor Adventure Day

- Celebrate children's right to play by spending extra time outdoors.
- Include nature scavenger hunts, loose parts play, obstacle courses, or cooperative games.

11. Learning Activity ‘Every Child Has Gifts’

- Discuss children's unique gifts, strengths, and talents.
- Invite children to create a "gift shield" or "strength feather" highlighting what makes them special.
- Connect learning to respect, identity, and belonging.

12. National Child Day Pledge ‘Our Commitment to Children’

- Create a class or family pledge that promotes kindness, respect, inclusion, safety, and listening to children's voices.
- Invite children to decorate and sign the pledge.

Children are not just the leaders of tomorrow; they are important members of our communities today. National Child Day reminds us to listen to children, celebrate their strengths, protect their rights, and create spaces where every child can thrive.