

Children's Charter of Developmental Rights

Awareness

Children have the right to live in societies where policy-makers ensure that they are fully informed about the evidence supporting healthy human learning and development and take action to protect children's rights and freedoms based on this.

Safety

Children have the right to live in societies where their basic survival needs are met and where they are protected from neglect, abuse and violence. National and local decision and policy-makers have the duty to provide environments that prioritise children's survival and healthy development.

Health and Wellbeing

National and local decision and policy-makers have the duty to seek to provide environments that maximize children's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. In doing so they should recognize the vital importance of relationships, the primary importance of parents, families and local communities and the intrinsic human need for belonging and contribution.

Adult Wellbeing

Adult wellbeing is essential for child wellbeing. Adults have the right to expect the cultural and social systems within which they live to acknowledge this and to respond in ways that seek to support their own learning and self-development. Children need the company of loving, responsive and attentive adults and have the right to be protected from any relationships that are uninformed or harmful to their health and wellbeing.

Pre-Birth

Every child has the right to expect to be protected from anything that might be detrimental to his or her healthy growth pre-birth. Local and national decision and policy-makers have a duty to ensure that parents are fully informed about the issues that might negatively impact on the development of their babies.

Birth

Children have the right to be welcomed into the world in as gentle, loving and caring ways as possible with mothers and babies having the right to be protected from all care that might compromise their healthy, natural perinatal and birth experiences.

Learning and Development

Children have the right to be protected from any system that might inhibit their innate curiosity, creativity and love of learning. National and local decision and policy-makers have the duty to seek to provide environments that maximize children's innate capacities and learning potential. They should do so in ways that affirm to every child the value and importance of

diversity and that nurture positive and self-affirming values, dispositions and mindsets.

Discovery and exploration

Children have the right to be given the time and space to explore the world in unstructured ways free from developmentally inappropriate adult pressures and expectations.

Play

Children have the right be provided with environments that nurture their creativity and self-expression through regular outdoor exploration and play.

Risk-Taking

Children have the right to learn from challenge, to experience failure as learning and to become confident and adventurous explorers of the environment. Safety concerns therefore need to therefore be balanced with the child's need to experiment and grow.

Engagement and Encouragement

Children have the right to be in the company of informed and encouraging adults who help to enhance the ways in which they can relate to and understand the world.

Wonder and awe

Children have the right to maintain a deep connection with the natural world that helps them feel part of something greater than themselves and that fosters compassion and empathy.

Stewardship

Children have the right to be protected from systems that endanger their own future. They need to learn about plants, animals and ecosystems so that they understand the importance of balance and sustainability and can grow up as stewards of the environment.

