

# Citizens of the World



## For Our World

The world is bigger than we know,  
So many needs, so much to do.  
How can it matter what you think,  
What in your heart you feel is true?  
Yet people care and work and plan,  
And make the most of what they've got.  
They go on trying, win or lose,  
To keep what's good and change what's not.  
The world is bigger than we know,  
And yet it is a small place, too.  
The greatest hopes and dreams and deeds  
Begin with others just like you.

# Rights and Responsibilities



## Think About It



Why do rights and responsibilities go together?

We all have rights. We also have responsibilities. It is important that your rights are respected, but it is also your responsibility to respect the rights of others. Rights and responsibilities go together.

Here are some examples. You have the right to be healthy. You have the responsibility to eat the best foods you can. You have the right to drink water when you are thirsty. You have the responsibility to turn off the tap so water won't be wasted.

# People's Rights

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects the rights of all Canadians. It makes sure that everyone in Canada is treated fairly. Below are some of the rights in the Charter.

Other countries also protect people's rights. They protect many of the same rights that are in Canada's Charter.

- What are our rights as citizens of Canada?
- What are our responsibilities as citizens of Canada?



Religious rights



Education rights

Canadian Charter  
of Rights and  
Freedoms



Equality rights



Language rights



Right to speak freely

# SKILL

## POWER

# Learn About Point of View

A point of view is the way a person thinks or feels about something. Sometimes people from different cultures have different points of view.

Thinking about point of view helps you understand other people's ideas and feelings. Here are some ideas to try:

### **In their shoes**

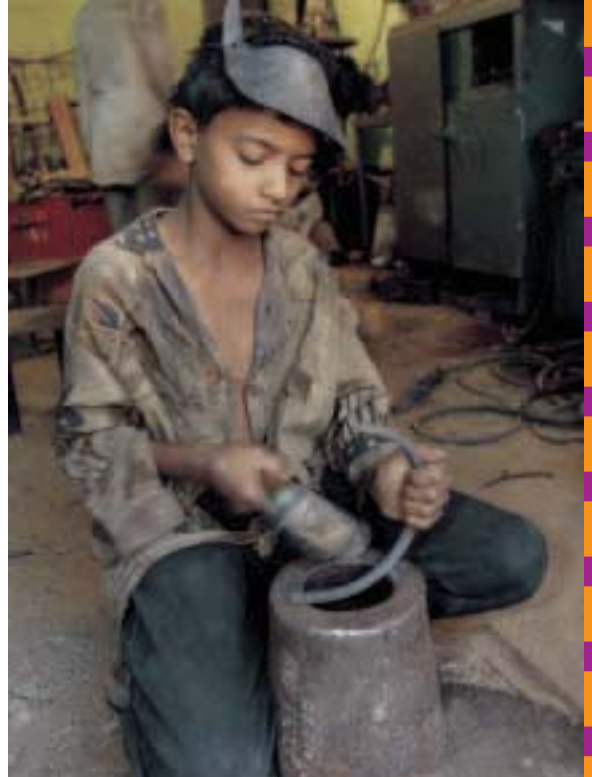
Put yourself in the other person's shoes. Try to imagine how you would think and feel if you were in that person's place.

### **Listen carefully**

Listen carefully to what the other person says. Try to understand that person's thoughts and feelings. Ask questions if you are confused.

### **Keywords**

People say words like "I think," "I feel," "In my opinion" when they are giving their point of view. Listen for these words.



Try to imagine how this boy is feeling. What might he be thinking?

### **TRY THIS**

By seeing the point of view of others, you will be able to understand rights and responsibilities better. Look at the pictures in this chapter. Think about what you see from the point of view of the person in the photograph.

# Rights of the Child

The United Nations (UN) is an **organization** formed by many countries of the world to help people everywhere have a good quality of life. The UN tries to help people meet their needs, protect people's rights, and keep peace.

The UN decided to support children's rights around the world. These rights are listed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. One hundred ninety-two countries voted to support these rights. Below are some of the rights in the Convention.

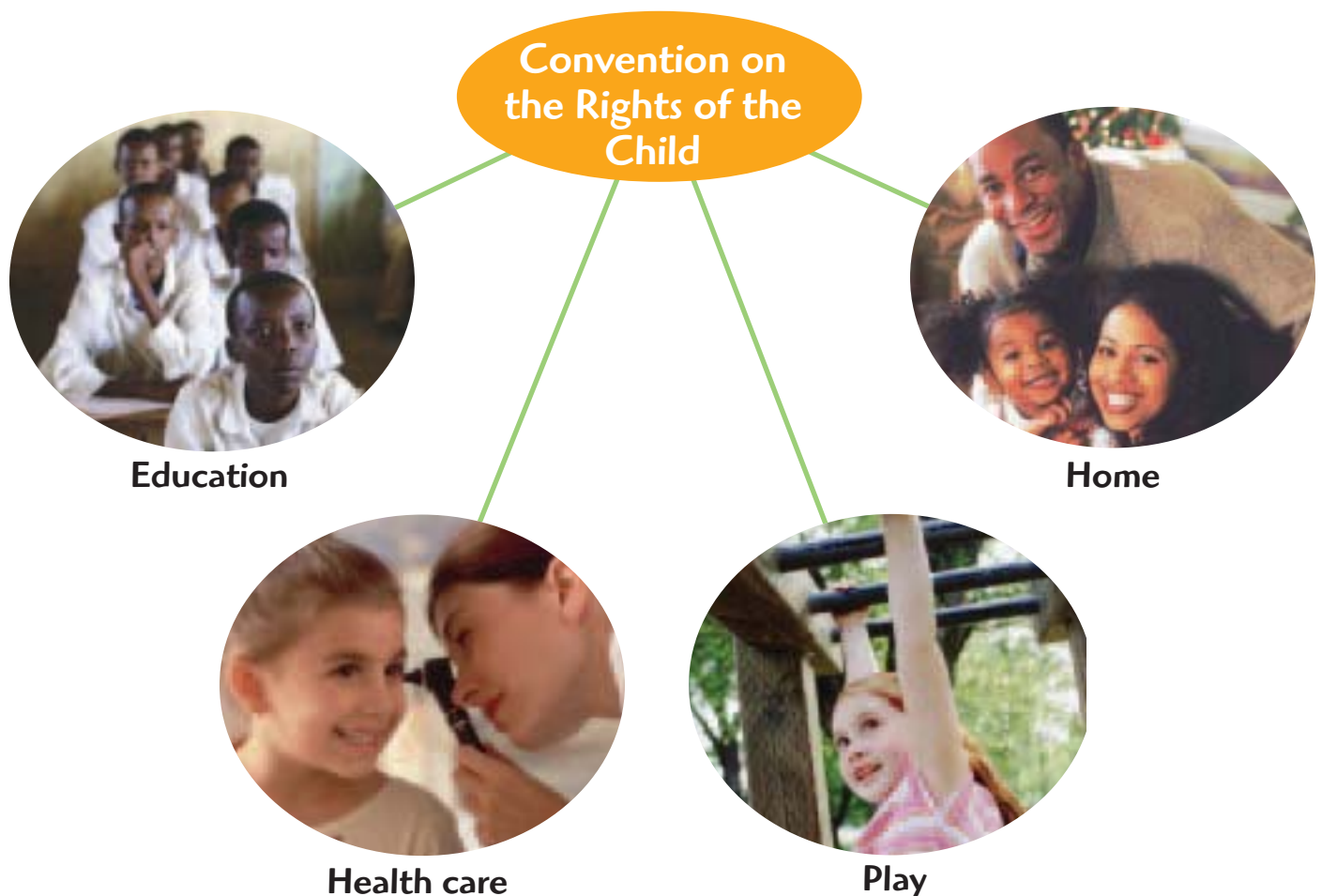
In this chapter, you will find out about children's rights and responsibilities.

- What are our rights as citizens of the world?
- What are our responsibilities as citizens of the world?



## Word Watch

An **organization** is a group of people who work together for a common goal.



### Drip Irrigation

Farmers in dry countries are using a new method to water their crops. They use rows of bamboo pipes with small holes in them. They place the pipes beside the rows of planted seeds. Then they pour water down the pipes. The water drips out of the holes onto the seeds. Almost no water is wasted.

## Right to Food and Water

People need water for many things. They use water to drink, wash, grow food, and clean their clothes. People also need food so they can be strong and healthy. There is enough water and food on earth for everyone. The problem is that some people have more than they need, and other people do not have enough.

Many village children in Africa work hard to get water. They walk to a tap, well, or river, and they fill a bucket or pot with water. Then they walk home again. Some children walk many kilometres for water every day.

### Think About It



How many water taps are in your home? How would your life change if you had only one? How would your life change if you had to get water from outside your home?



Young girls in Zimbabwe carry water home from a well.



An Indian farmer uses a water wheel to irrigate his field.

When Ravi's father was a boy, India often needed food. Later, the government helped farmers solve this problem in three ways. First, the government increased the amount of farmland. Second, it built dams and irrigation systems so farmers could grow more crops. Third, it helped farmers use better seeds. India is now one of the world's biggest farming countries.

All around the world, farmers lose part of their crops to insects and disease. Some plants get rid of insects that harm crops. Farmers use these plants to help them grow more food.

## Helping Hungry People

We all share the responsibility to make sure that people do not go hungry.

In Canada, many people give food or money to Canadian food banks. They also give money to help hungry people in other countries. Many organizations and countries around the world help hungry people.

### Did You Know ?

In Peru, scientists have discovered more than 300 kinds of plants that can get rid of insects that harm crops.

## Fact Flash

In China, 1000 hospital buses bring doctors to people who live far from hospitals or doctors.

## Here **AND** There

In some countries, people have to pay for health care. But in 1967, the Canadian government decided to pay for health care services, such as seeing a doctor or getting a vaccine. How does this affect quality of life?

## Right to a Healthy Life

To be healthy, children need good food, safe drinking water, and a clean place to live. They need vaccines to protect them from getting diseases. Sometimes they need doctors, medicines, or operations to help them get better.



Families are responsible for making sure that children see a doctor when they need to.



## In My Own Words

My friend Koya told me about Clean Hands, Happy Hands. Health workers came to her village. They taught the children why it is important to wash their hands often. Washing is especially important after going to the bathroom and before touching food. People can catch many diseases when they put dirty hands or dirty objects in their mouths.

*María, Peru*



Children wash their hands at a well in South America.





Skating is a good way to exercise.



Eating good food is one way to stay healthy.

Children also have a responsibility to stay healthy. They can do this in many ways:

- Eat fruit, vegetables, and other healthy food whenever they can.
- Decide not to eat too many candies or too much junk food.
- Get enough sleep.
- Exercise by playing sports, walking, or riding a bike.
- Wash their hands often.
- Put garbage where it belongs.
- Be sure to take medicine when they need it.
- Be sure not to eat food they are allergic to.

Why is it important for children to be responsible for their own health?

### Measles in Africa

Measles is a disease that can be prevented by vaccine. But many children were not vaccinated, and some were dying. For five years, volunteers went everywhere to tell parents to bring their children to be vaccinated. Far fewer children are now dying from measles.



## Refugee Camps

A **refugee** is a person who has left home because of war or other disasters. Many children live in refugee camps. These camps are often crowded. It may be hard to get good shelter, water, food, and health care. But a refugee camp is also a place of safety.

Some refugees come to Canada. Some make new homes in other countries.



## Right to a Home

Children around the world live in all kinds of homes. They live in apartments, trailers, brick houses, houses made from branches and leaves, houseboats, and even caves.



### Did You Know ?

In 2002, almost 40 000 refugees came from all over the world to make new homes in Canada.

But a home is more than just a place to live. It should have good food and water. It should be a place where children can feel safe and happy. A home should have adults who are responsible for taking care of the children.



Children need love as much as they need food.



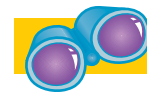
### In My Own Words

Sometimes I wish our apartment were bigger. But I can see the Dnipro River from my window. And when I hear my grandfather making tea at night, I think it's the best home in the world.

*Irena, Ukraine*

### Brown Bagging

Some children don't have homes. In large cities, some children live on the street. An organization in Calgary helps street kids by giving them free lunches. **Volunteers** make the lunches and raise money to buy more food. Each lunch bag has a sandwich, vegetables, fruit, snacks, and milk or juice.



### Word Watch

A **volunteer** is a person who does work without being paid.

### Think About It



Why do you think people work as volunteers?

## Inuit Education

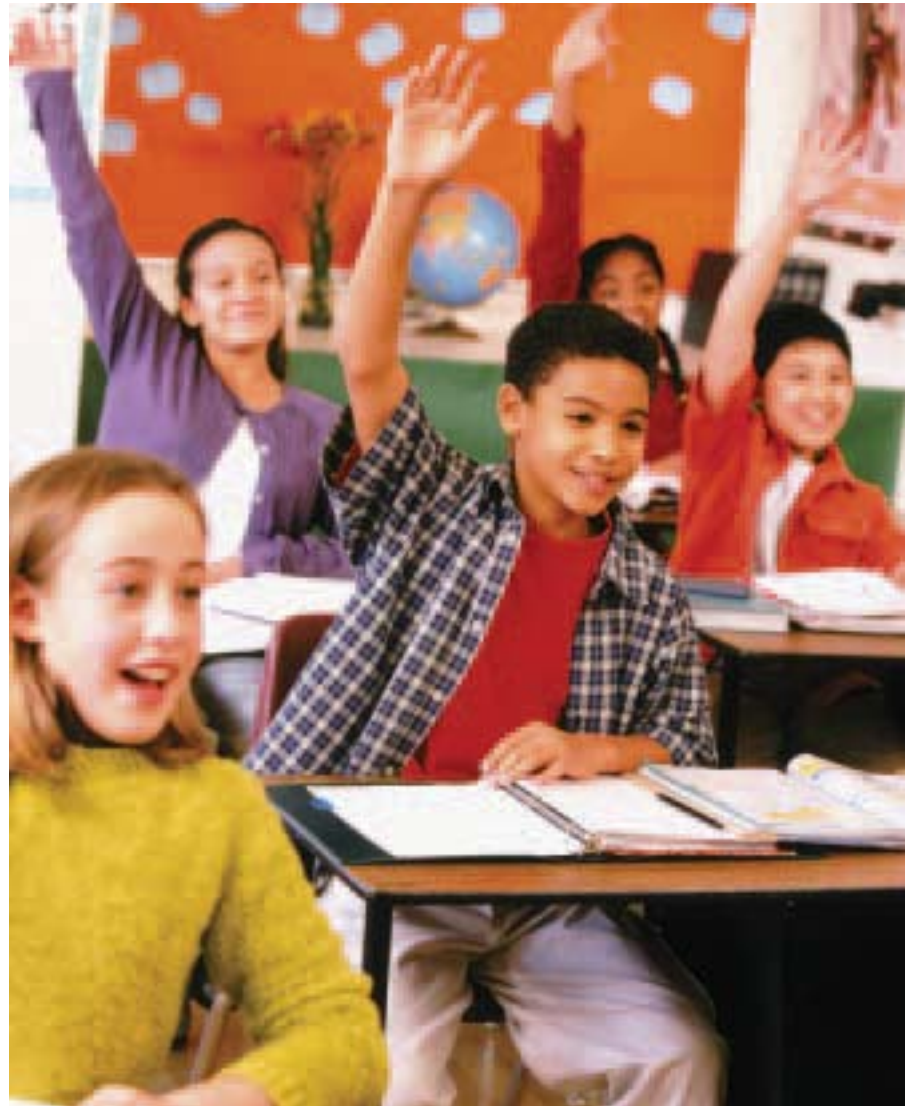
Mitiarjuk Nappaaluk is an Elder in Nunavik, Quebec. In 2004, she received the Order of Canada for making a difference in education. She is a teacher and a writer. She has written many books about teaching children. She has always worked hard to preserve Inuit culture.



## Right to Education

Children have the right to go to school to learn. Schools teach important skills like reading, writing, and math. Children learn about the world. They learn about their rights and responsibilities and about how to stay healthy.

Educated children get better jobs when they grow up. Children have a chance for a better quality of life if they go to school.



Children in Canada have good schools to go to.

Here are some reasons not all children go to school:

- Some children live in places without schools or teachers.
- Some children work to help their families.
- Some children can't afford to pay for school in countries where education is not free.

Even in Canada, many children come to school hungry. Teachers and parents know that hungry children cannot learn well. So parents have set up breakfast programs in some schools. First the right to have enough food needs to be taken care of. Then children can enjoy their right to an education.



Girls in Afghanistan are happy to go to school.

## Think About It



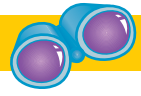
- What are the most important things you learn in school?
- How will going to school help you in your life?



## In My Own Words

All boys and girls in Tunisia go to school. In some countries, people think it's more important for boys to go to school. Our teacher told us that girls in Afghanistan were not allowed to go to school for six years. Then a new government allowed girls to go to school again. I think girls have a right to education just as much as boys do.

*Ahmed, Tunisia*



### Word Watch

**Wages** are money that people earn for the work they do.

### Fact Flash

Around the world, more than 200 million children under 14 work for a living.

## Right to Protection from Harmful Work

Adults need to work to make money to live. Many children in the world also work to help their families. But children need work that is safe. They need to be paid fair **wages**. Also, they shouldn't work for too many hours in a day. It's important for children to have time to play and go to school.



A young Indian boy works in a spice shop.



Young Filipino girls are on their way to school.

Some people think that Canadians should not buy things made by children. They believe this will force countries to make rules to stop children from working. Other Canadians say that in some places children must work. If we stop buying the things they make, these children and their families might starve. They say we should ask countries to make fair laws for children who need to work. What do you think our responsibility is?



### In My Own Words

Some children from poor families work instead of going to school. Most of them work on farms. My friend Kabir is happy to make money so his family can buy food and other things they need. But I know that Kabir is sad because he can't go to school. If I were the prime minister, I would help parents so that their children don't need to work.

*Ravi, India*

### Back to School

Many girls in the Philippines who lived in the country did not go to school. Their parents needed to do farm work or fish, so the girls stayed home to take care of their younger brothers and sisters. Today, some schools have daycare for young children. Now the girls can get an education.

### Think About It



Make a list of jobs that you and other children do. Is this fair work for children to do?

# Respecting Rights

## TRY THIS

Find out about other rights in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Make a list of three other rights you think are important. Share your list with your classmates, and talk about the rights you have chosen.

It is important to know what our rights are. We should all know that we have the right to be treated equally and fairly.

It is also important to know what our responsibilities are. We have to work together and respect the rights of everyone in our community.

When people's rights are respected, it improves the quality of life for everyone.



Every community is a better place to live in when everyone's rights are respected.



# Show What You Know!

## Make a Poster

In this chapter, you learned about some of the rights in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Make a poster to teach children about their rights.

- Try out different ways of putting words and pictures on your poster.
- Think up a title for your poster.
- Put your poster up where other students in your school can see it.

