



# Durham Region Children and Youth Charter

## Children's Charter



In Durham, children and youth came together and, in their own words, described what these rights mean to them:

1. The right to be a “kid.”
  - To have fun
  - To play
  - To play with friends
  - To make safe decisions for yourself
2. The right to basic needs.
  - To food and water and cookies and plates for our food
  - To real juice
  - To clothes and shoes that fit
  - To having a family
  - To be loved
  - To not be abandoned
  - To shelter
3. The right to be healthy.
  - To have a good heart because it takes care of your body
  - To have doctors and dentists
  - To have your eyes and ears checked
  - To have sugar once in a while
  - To have a bath
  - To exercise
4. The right to publicly funded education, recreation, and learning opportunities.
  - To learn
  - To go to school
  - To a kind teacher who doesn't yell and who has zero tolerance for physical aggression
  - To have someone teach you so you can understand
  - To not have to participate in games if you don't want to
5. The right to justice, protection, and fair treatment.
  - To not be bullied
  - To call the police when you are in danger
  - To live in peace
  - To speak and communicate
6. The right to freedom from discrimination.
  - To try not to destroy the human race
  - To wear what you want to wear
7. The right to caring and healthy environments: at home, at school, child care, and in your neighbourhood.
  - To have people care about you or you won't survive
  - To take care of your neighbourhood
  - To go outside
  - To do sports
8. The right to experience friendship.
  - To pick whatever friends you want
  - To be careful who you choose as a friend
  - To know that what is popular is not always right
9. The right to value their religion, culture, and beliefs, and their own identity.
  - To be respected for my culture
  - To make up my own mind about what I want to believe
10. The right to be heard, respected and valued.
  - To treat people nicely – people's lives are like gold, very valuable
  - To be treated the way you want to be treated
  - To not be ignored
11. The right to live in peace
  - To live the way you want to live and not be attacked
12. The right to a government that values children and youth and considers their needs in the decision making and planning.

Approved by Durham Regional Council June 10, 2009



Durham Region will ensure a prosperous healthy future by protecting the rights of children and youth. We will work with families and communities to fulfill our shared responsibilities to our children and youth.