

Battlefords Children's Charter

This charter sets out a vision for our children - everyone under the age of 18 years old - to have the freedom to grow as individuals. It is based on the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* which states that, *'rights are things that every child should have or be able to do.'* We are committed to supporting families so that all our children can live, learn, play and dream in safe and healthy surroundings. *All quotes are from children in The Battlefords.*

The Right To Be You

- To be respected for who you are - the same, yet different from everyone else
- To be proud of who you are – your values, faith, sexuality, and abilities
- To speak your language and to practice your traditions and culture
- To *"feel good, proud, not to be left out – one with family and friends"*

The Right To Basic Needs

- To have a safe and secure home environment, healthy food, clean water, suitable clothing and access to quality health care
- *"To be strong you need to eat your vegetables"*

The Right To Play

- To have access and opportunities to participate in recreation and leisure activities
- To be *"in the sand with tools and a bucket"*
- To *"hang out with friends, drive around, watch movies and laugh"*

The Right To Be Safe

- To live without fear in a community committed to freedom and peace
- To be free from neglect, bullying, racism and exploitation
- To not *"hurt your bones, get scrapes or lose too much blood"*
- To *"not be scared, nervous or worried – know who to trust and who I am with makes me feel safe"*

The Right To Learn

- To have early experiences that will build your brain which prepares you to achieve your fullest potential
- To become a confident learner and maintain an excitement for learning
- To have quality education
- To *"have caring environments where teachers respect us and are kind"*

The Right To Loving Relationships

- To have adults who believe in your hopes and dreams
- To have quality time with family and other positive role models
- To be nurtured in mind, body and spirit
- To *"bake cookies with my sisters, mommy and grandma"*
- To do *"fun activities like playing board games, swimming, camping, visiting"*

The Right To Be Heard

- To be free to express your thoughts and feelings – to give an honest opinion
- To have *"you look at me"*
- To be listened to – *"other people are not talking."* *"Don't interrupt."*

The Right To Belong

- To have a supportive family and community that advocates for you and is responsive and accepting
- To feel *"happy and important"*
- To *"be myself and act silly and my best friends accept me for who I am – don't have to try to be someone else"*

Developed by the Battlefords Early Childhood Community Planning Network
Endorsed by the City of North Battleford and the Town of Battleford