

## Children's Day

In 1925, the World Conference for the Well-Being of Children in Geneva, Switzerland, proclaimed **June 1 to be International Children's Day**, and many countries celebrate a "Children's Day" on this date (<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/i/internationalchildrensday.asp>).

A similar day of honor is **Universal Children's Day on November 20**, a date selected by the United Nations General Assembly in 1954 to be a day of "worldwide fraternity and understanding between children." On this day, the Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 (<http://www.un.org/en/events/childrenday/>). (Legislative Research)

It appears that at least the last four U.S. presidents have proclaimed a National Child's Day, but have varied in whether they designated June 1 or November 20 as the day of honor. For example, in 2008, President George W. Bush proclaimed June 1 as National Child's Day (<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=77456>), but in 2013, President Obama proclaimed November 20 as National Child's Day (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/11/19/presidential-proclamation-national-childs-day-2013>). (Legislative Research)

**June 8<sup>th</sup>** United States celebrates children's day but is not establish in Alaska.

**June 1<sup>st</sup>** is the most popular day (47 countries) celebrated Children's Day

**National Children's day** Second Sunday in June



## Universal Children's Day

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"The one thing all children have in common is their rights. Every child has the right to survive and thrive, to be educated, to be free from violence and abuse, to participate and to be heard. "

*Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon*



A woman teacher leads children in a game involving singing and role playing at a BRAC childcare centre in the Mirpur sub-district of Dhaka, the capital. UNICEF/NYHQ2013-0364/Noorani

By resolution 836(IX) of 14 December 1954, the General Assembly recommended that all countries institute a Universal Children's Day, to be observed a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children. It recommended that the Day was to be observed also as a day of activity devoted to promoting the ideals and objectives of the Charter and the welfare of the children of the world. The Assembly suggested to governments that the Day be observed on the date and in the way which each considers appropriate. The date 20 November, marks the day on which the Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, in 1959, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in 1989.

Nearly 25 years ago, the world made a promise to children: that we would do everything in our power to protect and promote their rights to survive and thrive, to learn and grow, to make their voices heard and to reach their full potential. In spite of the overall gains, there are many children who have fallen even further behind. Old challenges have combined with new problems to deprive many children of their rights and the benefits of development.

To meet these challenges, and to reach those children who are hardest to reach, we need new ways of thinking and new ways of doing - for adults and children.

There is much to celebrate as we mark the 25th anniversary of the Convention, from declining infant mortality to rising school enrolment, but this historic milestone must also serve as an urgent reminder that much remains to be done. Too many children still do not enjoy their full rights on par with their peers.

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## International Children's Day - 1 June

The World Conference for the Well-being of Children in Geneva, Switzerland, proclaimed June 1 to be International Children's Day in 1925. It is usually marked with speeches on children's rights and wellbeing, and other events involving or dedicated to children.

A similar event, [Universal Children's Day](#), falls on 20 November. It was established by the United Nations in 1954 and aims to promote the welfare of children around the world.



### Resource calendar

Links to resources to support learning related to celebrations, awareness days and action weeks throughout the year.

### Resources

#### [Wikipedia - Children's Day](#)

Information about when and how Children's Day is celebrated in different parts of the world.

#### [Universal Children's Day](#)

Find out more about this day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children.

#### [Human Rights Education Associates - Universal Children's Day](#)

Learning materials and useful links to support using Universal Children's Day as a context for learning.

#### [British Red Cross - Child soldier](#)

This lesson plan looks at the way some armies and militias "press gang" children and young people into fighting

Valley Gamma Knife Center

[Click here to learn more.](#)



## Herald News: Letters, June 5, 2013

JUNE 5, 2013

HERALD NEWS

### Children's Day

meant to be celebrated

The second Sunday in June has been designated as Children's Day since the 1860s. As that date (This year, it is June 9) approaches, we can find no mention of Children's Day on the calendar. It seems ludicrous for Mother's Day, Father's Day and even Grandparents Day to be so popular, but no mention of Children's Day.

So many terrible things are happening to children, and we repeatedly learn about their misfortunes. Too many are not getting messages of endearment, for they are dying and/or killing each other or living in a world of fear where planning for their funeral is their plan for the future. Children now more than ever need the assistance of parents, educators, religious and business leaders and other adults to cope with the many issues and problems they are experiencing.

Where should we start? Let's start with celebrating Children's Day with simple, inexpensive activities such as ongoing words of encouragement and appreciation and notes of admiration. Wouldn't it be great if all kinds of writing paper were available in beauty salons, barber shops, churches and stores for adults to take a few minutes to write a note to their children and other children such as, "Have I told you lately how much I love you? I am proud of you."

Take a family trip to the park or ice cream shop that you went to as a kid. Maybe the adult can do the child's chore for the day. Go to church with your child, where childhood poems and songs can be led by an adult.

For next year, start working on a calendar that includes Children's Day. One day cannot cure everything, but we can learn a lot.

Mary Cornish, Mae Bradley, Margaret Womack