



International Year of the Child 1979

The United Nations invites you
to renew your concern
for children everywhere . . .

The General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed 1979 the INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD. Their resolution urges the people and governments of the world to:

-Renew their concern for children - our world's most precious resource.

-Review their local and national programs for children.

-Reaffirm their determination to increase services benefiting the child on a permanent basis.

-Focus on the special needs of the Child, especially in education and health care.

The International Year of the child is an occasion to reaffirm, not by words alone but by deeds, that the well-being of today's children is the concern of all people everywhere and that it is inseparably linked with peace and prosperity of tomorrow's world.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO CELEBRATE?

The Women's Inter-church Council of Canada suggests the following as ways that individuals and groups might participate in the International Year of the Child.

..Invite a guest speaker to your club, organization or Home and School Association to talk about positive parenting, education, day care, handicapped children, children with special needs or any area pertaining to children that would be of benefit to your members.

..Contact your local Children's Aid, "Y", Big Brother/ Little Sister Association or other voluntary organization regarding volunteer work.

..Contact your local Children's Aid with regard to becoming a foster parent.

..Make a personal commitment to your own children, grand-

children, nephews or neices to set aside extra time in 1979 for an educational or recreational experience, e.g. trip to zoo, museum, conservation area or art gallery; camping or sporting events.

..Construct a special children's recreation area in a local park or school yard.

..Develop a children's theatre group.

..Hold an art, music or drama festival for and by children.

..Set up a system of volunteers to help teachers in the classroom or on field trips.

..Plan sports or games events.

..Develop a family project which involves your children's creative talents e.g. build a playhouse, set up a greenhouse, make your own greeting cards, start an aquarium, learn to sail,

camp, explore nature, start a vegetable or flower garden.

..Offer to babysit for a single-parent family.

..Drop in on a new mother to see if she needs any assistance or even just some reassuring talk.

..Hire young people for home maintenance jobs.

..Start a young people's program at your place of worship.

..Set up family social events that include children of all ages - pot luck dinner, movie night, community fair, games night, sports day, hobbit fair.

..Involve children in volunteer work with senior citizens, the physically handicapped, a recreation centre, hospital patients, other younger children.

..Have your school/class/club/office adopt a foster child in an underdeveloped country.

OPEN HOUSE
at the
ELGIN & DISTRICT
Co-op Nursery School
April 25
1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ☪
Elgin United Church

Parents & Children
Welcome to visit
School and observe
a class in session.

(The following is the speech written by SHERRY PATTERSON, a grade 6 student at South Crosby Public School, for the recent Public Speaking competitions. Sherry placed 2nd. in Elgin, and received an Honorable Mention at the Legion Competition in Portland. Congratulations, Sherry on a job well done.

1979 is dedicated to the children of the world. At eleven years old, I have freedom of speech. I can speak for those who have not been given the opportunity to voice their own opinions. I hope this will ignite sympathy in you, the public, and you will help to lessen the burden of those who are suffering.

These children get few chances which are open to me, such as a good education, a home, love, food, clothes and friends. More than 216 children are born every day. That's more than 80 million a year.. and there isn't enough food to feed them. Each year thousands of people die of starvation and over a billion suffer from severe hunger and malnutrition. Actually, there is plenty of food in the world but, it is distributed very unevenly and used very inefficiently. For example, each year in the U.S., livestock eat as much grain as the people in China and India combined.

These children are also deprived of a good education. We children who are able to go to school each day don't realize its importance. In underdeveloped countries there is very little education. The children as well as the adults have never learned to read or write. Organizations such as UNICEF are set up to improve the situation of the poor.

Problems exist in our country as well. Parents are finding it difficult to bring up children in this society. Many disturbed parents resort to child abuse. Usually parents who abuse children were victims of abuse themselves. Unable to cope with the anger within them, they turn to beating their children. If you're puzzled about how to discipline your children, don't feel alone. There are groups who are trained to help to overcome these problems. There is a difference between spanking your children because you love them, and abusing them because you are in a rage. When I'm disciplined, I am aware that the motive is not anger, but love. I only hope that many children can make this statement.

My reasons for expressing these feelings are to appeal to you, the audience, to give the underprivileged and abused children a chance - not only for the year 1979, but for a lifetime.

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