

Reflection for Children's Sunday  
November 20, 2022

**All Kinds of Children Have Rights**  
**Psalms 139: 13-14; Luke 18: 15-17**

**Jackie:** First of all, I would like to acknowledge and appreciate our Sunday School children and families. They have offered their participation to help organize our worship celebration today. This morning, may I ask everyone to please turn your attention to the screen as we watch and listen to a story called, "*All Kinds of Children*" written by Norma Simon, and read in this video by Sasha of Fun Stories and Play channel on YouTube (play video from 0:06 to 4:46).

Around the globe today, we are celebrating World or International Children's Day. Thank you for wearing something blue which is the official colour of Children's Day. Wearing blue today as well shows that we recognize the sacrifices of children and we thank them. It is a day for all kinds of children. If you are able to follow the hashtag trend for some years now that the young and young at heart use on social media to highlight something and make a point; National Child Day here in Canada has the hashtag *#8millionrising*. This hashtag tells us that there are approximately 8 million children in Canada and there are *#8MillionReasons* to put children first. In the world today, there are 2,375,649,484 children whose rights need to be recognized and respected. As stated by the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, a child has the right to: (slides)

- *Protection (from abuse, exploitation, and harmful substances)*
- *Provision (for education, health care, and an adequate standard of living)*

- *Participation (listening to children's views and respecting their evolving capacities)*
- *Specific protections and provisions for vulnerable populations such as Indigenous children and children with disabilities*

The book of Psalms, chapter 139 verses 13-14, mentioned words that could open our hearts and minds to God's special regard for children. And in the gospel of Luke and the other gospels also, we can find how it was written that Jesus has a soft heart for these little ones and how he is glad to demonstrate his affection for them. Kids are human beings who are wonderfully created by God in God's own image. Each child should be able to say that:

**Jaevy:** "I am special and God knows me well. I am my own being. I may be young but I am able to do my part in fulfilling my desire to be a good steward of God's creation. I take part in making the life of my fellow children become better. I am grateful for the nourishment that I receive to help my body grow strong and healthy. I am thankful for the activities that I enjoy such as the time to rest and play, the company of my friends, and the love of my family. I am thankful for how God has created me to be an awesome person. May I be protected, valued, and never neglected. I am important and God loves me. I hope you do, too."

Naomi Shihab Nye wrote a poem that I would like to share with you. It is called "*Shoulders*". This is for your pondering thoughts.

A man crosses the street in rain,  
stepping gently, looking two times north and south,

because his son is asleep on his shoulder.

No car must splash him.

No car drives too near to his shadow.

This man carries the world's most sensitive cargo

but he's not marked.

Nowhere does his jacket say FRAGILE,

HANDLE WITH CARE.

His ear fills up with breathing.

He hears the hum of a boy's dream

deep inside him.

We're not going to be able

to live in this world

if we're not willing to do what he's doing

with one another.


The road will only be wide.

The rain will never stop falling.

**Jackie:** As we listen to the Choral Offering, may I invite you to write on a post-it note placed in the pews; one reason why we need to put children first. It could be written in one or more words or in a sentence. And then at the end of the service, before you

leave the sanctuary, you may please post it on this board where you can see the hashtag #8MillionReasons. We will take and display them in our Sunday School area to remind us always that all kinds of children are special and important.

## Works Cited

- “ALL KINDS OF CHILDREN  DIVERSE CULTURE Story Book for Kids MULTICULTURAL Follow along Reading Book.” *YouTube*, YouTube, 30 Nov. 2019, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kyFyixSzn8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kyFyixSzn8).
- “National Child Day in Canada: Children First Canada.” *National Child Day*, 18 Nov. 2022, [nationalchildday.org/](https://nationalchildday.org/).
- “About the Convention on the Rights of the Child.” *UNICEF Canada : For Every Child*, [www.unicef.ca/en/policy-advocacy-for-children/about-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child#:~:text=Children have the rights to, and respecting their evolving capacities](https://www.unicef.ca/en/policy-advocacy-for-children/about-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child#:~:text=Children have the rights to, and respecting their evolving capacities).
- “Shoulders by Naomi Shihab Nye - Poems | Academy of American Poets.” *Poets.org*, Academy of American Poets, [poets.org/poem/shoulders](https://poets.org/poem/shoulders).