

Children as Citizens

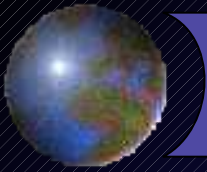




Children's Rights to Provision in Sweden

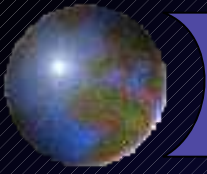


- ⊕ Health care is universally provided free of charge
- ⊕ Dental care is free for all up to the age of 20
- ⊕ Prescription drugs are heavily subsidized



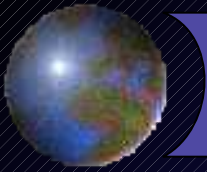
Children's Rights to Provision in Sweden (cont'd)

- ✿ Parents can stay home from work to care for a sick child (up to the age of 12) for up to 60 days per child per year
- ✿ Option to reduce parental work day by 25% until youngest child enters school



Children's Rights to Provision in Sweden (cont'd)

- ✦ Designated days off work to visit child's day care or school
- ✦ Children have a legal entitlement to a day care space



Children's Rights to Provision in Sweden (cont'd)

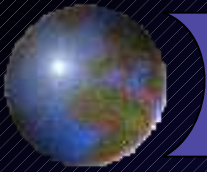
- ✦ 16 months parental leave following birth or adoption
- ✦ 60 days for mother, 60 for father, 60 can be shared
- ✦ can be used any time until child turns 8



Children's Rights to Protection in Sweden



- ✚ Corrective assault defense removed from Penal Code in 1957
- ✚ Physical punishment explicitly abolished in 1979



Sweden's Law

Children are entitled to care, security and a good upbringing. Children are to be treated with respect for their person and individuality and may not be subjected to physical punishment or other injurious or humiliating treatment.

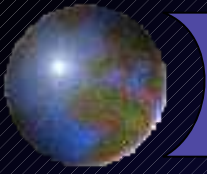
Canada's Law

Every schoolteacher, parent or person standing in the place of a parent is justified in using force by way of correction toward a pupil or child, as the case may be, who is under his care, if the force does not exceed what is reasonable under the circumstances.



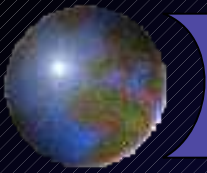
Children's Rights to Protection in Sweden (cont'd)

- ✚ Universal access to parent groups
- ✚ Universal access to information on
 - Child-proofing
 - Accident prevention
 - Child development



Children's Rights to Protection in Sweden (cont'd)

- ✿ Laws and policies protecting children's safety



Children's Rights to Participation in Sweden



- ✦ Children's Ombudsman since 1993
- ✦ Child Impact Assessments



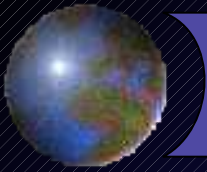
Children's Ombudsman

- ✦ Promotes the application of the CRC by all levels of government
- ✦ Empowered to request information from all levels of government about how they are ensuring compliance with the CRC



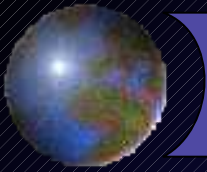
By 1998 . . .

- ✿ most administrative and judicial authorities working with children's questions stated that the CRC is relevant to their activities
- ✿ Half stated that they refer to it in their decisions, regulations or policy statements



✦ ***But*** . . . few authorities had developed strategies for *implementation* of the CRC

✦ How to translate the CRC into practice?



Swedish Parliament - March, 1999

- ❖ Unanimous approval of a national strategy to implement the CRC:
 - ❖ The child perspective and the CRC will permeate ***all public decision-making*** affecting children.
 - ❖ All national government decisions affecting children will be subjected to ***Child Impact Assessment***