

BRIGHT FUTURES CHILDREN'S HEALTH CHARTER

Throughout this century, principles developed by advocates for children have been the foundation for initiatives to improve children's lives. Bright Futures participants have adopted these principles in order to guide their work and meet the unique needs of children and families into the 21st century.

Every child deserves to be born well, to be physically fit, and to achieve self-responsibility for good health habits.

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Every child and adolescent deserves ready access to coordinated and comprehensive preventive, health-promoting, therapeutic, and rehabilitative medical, mental health, and dental care. Such care is best provided through a continuing relationship with a primary health professional or team, and ready access to secondary and tertiary levels of care.

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Every child and adolescent deserves a nurturing family and supportive relationships with other significant persons who provide security, positive role models, warmth, love, and unconditional acceptance.
A child's health begins with the health of his parents.

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Every child and adolescent deserves to grow and develop in a physically and psychologically safe home and school environment free of undue risk of injury, abuse, violence, or exposure to environmental toxins.

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Every child and adolescent deserves satisfactory housing, good nutrition, a quality education, an adequate family income, a supportive social network, and access to community resources.

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Every child deserves quality child care when her parents are working outside the home.

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Every child and adolescent deserves the opportunity to develop ways to cope with stressful life experiences.

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Every child and adolescent deserves the opportunity to be prepared for parenthood.

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Every child and adolescent deserves the opportunity to develop positive values and become a responsible citizen in his community.

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Every child and adolescent deserves to experience joy, have high self-esteem, have friends, acquire a sense of efficacy, and believe that she can succeed in life. She should help the next generation develop the motivation and habits necessary for similar achievement.

Source: Reproduced with permission from Green M, Palfrey JS, eds. 2002. *Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents* (2nd ed., rev.). Arlington, VA: National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health.