

# THE CHEST GAZETTE

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## CHILDREN'S DAY IN POLAND AND IN THE WORLD; ITS HISTORY, TRADITIONS AND CURIOSITIES

The tradition of celebrating Children's Day is over half a century old. It was established to disseminate the ideals and goals of the rights of the child enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It was established in 1954 on the initiative of the United Nations and has been celebrated since 1955 in many countries around the world. In Poland and other countries of the Eastern Bloc, it has been celebrated since the 1950s, always on June 1st.

### Children's Day in Poland

International Children's Day has its origins in 1925. It was then in Geneva that the World Conference for the Welfare of Children was held. In Poland, however, Children's Day was celebrated even before World War II. It was celebrated for the first time in 1929, but on September 22. That day, after the mass in the church, the children went to school academies, and then to trips and games. On that day, sweets were also distributed to children. In 1952, the holiday became permanent. Currently, sports days are often organized in Polish schools during Children's Day. Children's Day is also an opportunity to take children on trips, walks or to the cinema. On the occasion of this holiday, the Sejm of Children and Youth has been sitting in Warsaw since 1994.

### Feast of the youngest abroad

The differences in the dates of Children's Day are mainly due to the national, religious and customs traditions of individual countries. Over 40 countries around the world, incl. Poland, Lithuania, China, Russia, Ukraine and Portugal are celebrating Children's Day on June 1. The next most popular date of this holiday is November 20, celebrated in over 20 countries, including in Spain, Sweden. The earliest Children's Day is celebrated in France and Italy, on January 6. The "Family Day" is then celebrated there. Parents and children then sit down to a gala dinner, during which they eat, among others fortune-telling cake. Other countries celebrate Children's Day on different days - for example in the USA on the second Sunday in June, in Germany on September 20, and in the Netherlands - no such holiday is celebrated at all. In Sweden, children are not gifted, and on this day issues relating to the youngest, such as education and children's rights, are discussed.

In Japan, Children's Day is celebrated on May 5. Only boys are celebrating then. Fathers make carp-shaped flags with their sons that day (as a symbol of strength and courage) and hang them on the door. The girls also have their day on March 3, when they prepare doll displays in traditional costumes and drink a special rice drink.

Australian children have their day on the first Saturday in July, while Paraguayan children - August 16, Brazilian children - October 12.

### Children's Day in Turkey

In Turkey, Children's Day is celebrated on April 23. It is also the Independence Day - the anniversary of the establishment of the independent Turkish Republic in 1920. Its creator, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, decided to dedicate this day to children, thus emphasizing that they are the future of the nation. On that day, as in Poland, children sit and sit in parliament. It is a cool custom in Turkey to paint children with colorful paints to make them look like animals, plants or insects. This custom is slowly reaching us as well. Another interesting custom related to the Turkish Children's Day is kite flying. You can only imagine what the blue sky looks like, densely covered with colorful kites.

**Let us remember that every child is important, every day. We should do everything to make the kids happy, because they will create the world in which we age.**

Reporter Teresa Lautsch  
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kids from all over the world



preschoolers, photo: wilnoteka



kids from Italy



children from Turkey - playing with kites



kids from Poland

