**Cultural and relational connections are fundamental rights** for Indigenous children, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (1989) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), regardless of where the child lives. These connections support a child’s identity development, promotes resilience, and are the foundation of belonging. A range of positive mental and physical health outcomes are associated with connection to community members, visiting home, and engaging in cultural activities, events and ceremonies. It is important for foster caregivers to work with social workers and members of the child’s circle to ensure that the child’s specific needs, strengths and identities are understood and honoured. For Indigenous children, culture and relationships to family, community, land and ancestors are inseparable and necessary for healthy emotional, mental, physical and spiritual development.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

<https://www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/UN-Convention-Rights-Child-text.pdf>

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – Child-Friendly Text version

<https://www.unicef.org/media/60981/file/convention-rights-child-text-child-friendly-version.pdf>

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf>