

Our Rights

Unit 4: Our Community



Objectives

By the end of the lesson, the students will be able to:

- a) Explore what every child needs in order to be safe, healthy, and to develop to their potential.
- b) Raise their awareness of some of the problems children face worldwide.



Instructions

1. Put the students in pairs and ask them to brainstorm a list of the things they think all children need in order to be safe, healthy, and to develop their full potential. Give them 2 minutes to do this. After this ask them to share and list their answers on the board.
2. Share with the students that there is a worldwide agreement to protect and provide for the things that children need and that these are called Children's Rights. Point out that some of the things that they have already listed are Children's Rights.
3. Next, have the students form groups of six to ten and assign each group one of the four categories of children's rights: (1) Survival; (2) Development; (3) Protection; and (4) Participation
4. Give the groups two to three minutes to talk amongst themselves and think of one right that would be in their category and what life would be like if that rights was protected or not.
5. Inform the groups that they are to split up into two sub-groups as they are going to portray two images of their assigned right – one of it being violated and the other of it being protected - using the Image Theatre technique. Explain that each group will have to hold their image for 30 to 60 seconds while the rest of the class tries to determine what is being depicted.
6. Inform the students that during that time, you will tap some of their shoulders, and ask them what they are feeling or thinking as their assigned right is being violated/protected, so they must be prepared to answer. Remind the students that, apart from the time when you ask them what they are feeling/thinking, they can only use their bodies to depict what is happening, and that they cannot use any other movement or sound.
7. Give the groups ten minutes to plan their image, then the groups present to the rest of the class.
8. After the first 15 seconds, gently tap a performer's shoulder to hear a sentence or phrase about what the participant is thinking or feeling with their right being violated. Repeat the process with a student portraying the right being protected.
9. After each set of image is complete, ask the rest of the class to guess which right was being depicted. They may ask questions to the performers to help them, if needed.



Materials: Four Categories of Children’s Rights with Examples

“Rights” are things every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Almost every country has agreed to these rights. All the rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important. Sometimes, we have to think about rights in terms of what is the best for children in a situation, and what is critical to life and protection from harm.

Category	Survival	Development	Protection	Participation
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have the right to be alive You have the right to receive medical treatment You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can. You have the right to be cared for by a loving family. If you cannot be looked after by your own family you have the right to special care. You have the right to relax and play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No one is allowed to kidnap or sell you. No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way. You have the right to help if you’ve been hurt, neglected or badly treated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn’t harmful to others You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.
<p>All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.</p>				

Adapted from UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - In Child Friendly Language