

Talking Children's Rights

Objectives:

- To become familiar with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- To consider the importance of the right to participate.

You will need:

- Copies of: Summary of the Key Rights of the Child (one copy for each pair of students).
- Copies of: Summary of Key Rights of the Child by category (one copy for each pair of students).

Time required: 30 -40 minutes.

Instructions:

- Ask the students to work in pairs and to think about rights they think young people should have.
- Ask each pair in turn to contribute an idea, and record their feedback on a board or flipchart.
- Compare the list that the students have generated with a copy of the Summary of the Key Rights of the Child, containing an abbreviated list of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Using the Summary of the Key Rights of the Child sheet ask the pairs of students to group them into the following categories:
 - *Survival Rights* (i.e. having basic needs met)
 - *Protection Rights* (i.e. protection from harmful influence)
 - *Development Rights* (i.e. education and experience which allows a child to successfully develop into an adult)
 - *Participation Rights* (i.e. taking part in the wider society and having an input into relevant decisions)
- When they have done this the students could compare their results with the Summary of Key Rights by category sheet.
- Ask the students which rights or group of rights they think are the most important.

Discussion:

- Follow up the activity with a discussion about whether these key rights are upheld for children in the UK and Africa. Questions could include:
 - Are these rights always upheld?
 - Who is responsible for upholding them?
 - In what circumstances are they likely to be denied?



Summary of the Key Rights of the Child

Children have the right to take part in decisions affecting their lives

Children have the right to be with their family or carers

Children have the right to be protected from discrimination

Children have the right to play

Children have the right to protection from exploitation and abuse

Disabled children have the right to special care and training

Children have the right to be protected from work that could damage their education, health or development

Children have the right to enough food, clean water and health care

Children have the right to education

Children have the right to an adequate standard of living

Children have the right to know what their rights are

Children have the right to special protection in wars

Children have the right to a nationality

Summary of Key Rights of the Child by category

Survival Rights

Children have the right to be with their family or carers

Children have the right to enough food, clean water and health care

Children have the right to an adequate standard of living

Protection

Children have the right to be protected from discrimination

Children have the right to protection from exploitation and abuse

Children have the right to special protection in wars

Development Rights

Children have the right to play

Disabled children have the right to special care and training

Children have the right to be protected from work that could damage their education, health or development

Children have the right to education

Participation Rights

Children have the right to take part in decisions affecting their lives

Children have the right to know what their rights are

Children have the right to a nationality