

Emma's Story

Objectives

- To help children to understand the effects of armed conflict on the life of Emma and her family.
- To introduce the idea that basic needs can be considered rights.

You will need:

- Copies of the Rights of the Child (one copy for each group)
- Copies of Emma's Story (one copy for each group)

Time: 20-30 minutes

Instructions:

- The children work in small groups. Give each group a copy of the Rights of the Child.
- With the teacher the children group the rights into the following categories:
 - The self: those that apply directly to the child.
 - Services: what should be made available to the child.
 - Protection: outlines the areas from which a child should be protected, such as exploitation, all types of abuse, violence, neglect.
- Divide the lists so that each group has a number of rights.
- Give each group a copy of Emma's Story and ask them to read through the story and note whether Emma's rights are respected or denied. List them.

Discussion:

- Discuss who is responsible for Emma's rights being met?
- How do you think Emma felt having to leave her home? What makes you upset or unhappy? Have you ever been afraid? What/who helped you to cope with it?

Note to teachers: these questions need sensitive handling; you will know what is appropriate for particular individuals.



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 abuse, hurt and neglect

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. This means you should have food, clothes and a place to live.

Children have the right to know what their rights are

Children have the right to special protection in wars. You should never have to be in the army or take part in battle

Children have the right to a nationality