

# CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

## ELEMENTARY LEVEL

### Not Just Little Adults Activity

#### Orientation Activity

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this activity is for students to become familiar with international human rights documents and the unique rights of children.
- **Instructional method(s):** class discussion
- **Differentiated instruction:**
  - Students discuss in small groups instead of with the whole class.
- **Estimated time:** 25-30 minutes
- **Steps:**
  1. Ask students to close their eyes and visualize the following:

*Teacher Note: you have the option of asking students to volunteer their feelings at the end of each imagine session or at the very end of the activity*

- Imagine you weren't allowed to go to school. What would your life be like? What would your future look like? How does this make you feel?
  - Imagine you didn't have a house or apartment. Where would you live? How does this make you feel?
  - Imagine you weren't allowed to play or spend time doing things you like. Instead you had to work so that your family could have enough money to buy food. How does this make you feel?
2. Explain to the students that all humans have rights, and these rights should protect people from those sorts of situations. They should be able to live in dignity with the basic necessities needed for life.
  3. Go deeper in your discussion on human rights. Ask your students the following questions:
    - Have you ever heard of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? What is it?

*Teacher Note: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was created in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly. This document lists the essential rights for all human beings and sets the standard for how we should behave towards one another so that everyone's dignity and basic needs are respected.*

- Why was this document created?
  - What are some of the rights found in this document? List examples on the board.
  - Can the rights in this document be applied to both adults and children? Is this fair?
4. Explain that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was signed in 1989, after world leaders decided that childhood was unique and something that needed to be protected. The document was signed by countries all around the world, which means they have to uphold the rights set out within it. As such, children under the age of 18 have a special convention of their own. This convention lists all the rights that children have.
  5. Visit the topic of children's rights by asking the following questions:



- Why do children need rights of their own?
  - Why is it important that adults respect these rights?
  - What rights do you think are included in this convention? Write suggestions on the board.
6. Thinking back to the imagine activity, explain to students that there are children around the world facing these difficulties. Ask students to imagine that it was within their power to change the lives of these children – to provide nourishment, health care, education and hope for a better tomorrow. Ask students to write a reflection in their journal explaining how this notion makes them feel and how they would like to help children in need.

**Stand up for children's rights by taking the Vow of Silence. Learn more about this empowering campaign at [www.weday.com/takeaction](http://www.weday.com/takeaction).**