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# CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

## ELEMENTARY LEVEL

### United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Activity

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#### Core Activity

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this activity is to give students an opportunity to develop a clear understanding of the UNCRC. Through this activity they will learn the rights they have as youth.
- **Instructional method(s):** group work, class discussion, independent work
- **Differentiated instruction:**
  - The classroom teacher assigns different articles to the groups.
  - Students write a written reflection about their chosen article instead of creating an illustration.
- **Estimated time:** 25-30 minutes
- **Steps:**
  1. Divide class into pairs and distribute B.L.M. 1 to each group.
  2. Explain to students that the document in front of them is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the articles listed in the chart are all the rights they have as children.
  3. Instruct pairs to work together to choose three articles in the UNCRC that they think are most important. Explain that they must think about what each of these rights means to a child's quality of life. Together, they must debate and discuss all the articles in order to come to their conclusion.
  4. Once each pair has reached their conclusion, they are to share their top three articles with the class and explain their reasoning. Track the articles selected, identifying any repeats.
  5. Debrief the activity using the following suggested questions:
    - Which were the most popular articles? Why?
    - Were there any rights that you weren't aware you had?
    - Are all children's rights always respected and upheld? Why or why not? List examples.
  6. Following this debrief ask each student to return to their desk and select one of the articles in the UNCRC. Explain that they should choose an article that speaks to them and sparks their interest; it does not necessarily have to be their favourite.
  7. Once the students have selected their article, distribute paper and drawing utensils throughout the room. Ask the students to draw a picture that displays their interpretation of the meaning of the article.
  8. When students have completed their drawings, ask them to present their work to the class, identifying which article they choose and explaining their visual interpretation.
  9. Display drawings around the classroom as a reminder of children's rights.

**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).**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

<p><b>Article 1 (Definition of the child)</b> Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in this Convention.</p>	<p><b>Article 2 (without discrimination)</b> States shall respect and protect these rights without discrimination of any kind.</p>	<p><b>Article 3 (best interests of the child)</b> In all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child shall come first.</p>	<p><b>Article 4 (protection rights)</b> Governments must do all they can to fulfill the rights of every child.</p>	<p><b>Article 5 (parental guidance)</b> States will respect the rights and duties of parents, guardians or extended family.</p>
<p><b>Article 6 (survival and development)</b> Every child has the right to life.</p>	<p><b>Article 7 (registration, name, nationality, care)</b> Every child shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality, and the right to know and be cared for by their parents.</p>	<p><b>Article 8 (preservation of identity)</b> Governments must respect and protect a child's identity and prevent their name, nationality or family relationships from being changed unlawfully.</p>	<p><b>Article 9 (separation from parents)</b> Children must not be separated from their parents unless it is in the best interests of the child.</p>	<p><b>Article 10 (family reunification)</b> Every child has the right to leave or enter any country, including their own, subject to legal restrictions.</p>
<p><b>Article 11 (kidnapping and trafficking)</b> Governments must take steps to prevent children being taken out of their own country illegally or being prevented from returning.</p>	<p><b>Article 12 (respect for the view of children)</b> Every child has the right to express his/her own views freely in all matters affecting them.</p>	<p><b>Article 13 (freedom of expression)</b> Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive information of any kind as long as it is within the law.</p>	<p><b>Article 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion)</b> Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and also to practice their religion.</p>	<p><b>Article 15 (freedom of association)</b> Every child has the right to meet with other children and young people and to join groups and organizations.</p>
<p><b>Article 16 (right to privacy)</b> Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child's private, family and home life.</p>	<p><b>Article 17 (access to information from mass media)</b> Every child has the right to information from a diversity of sources.</p>	<p><b>Article 18 (parental responsibilities; state assistance)</b> Both parents (or legal guardians) are responsible for bringing up a child, and they have a right to appropriate help in this.</p>	<p><b>Article 19 (protection from all forms of violence)</b> Every child has the right to protection from all forms of abuse.</p>	<p><b>Article 20 (children deprived of a family)</b> If a child cannot be looked after by their family, governments must make sure that they are looked after properly.</p>
<p><b>Article 22 (refugee children)</b> Every child who is seeking refugee status has the right to receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance.</p>	<p><b>Article 23 (children with disability)</b> A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life in conditions that promote dignity, independence and an active role in the community.</p>	<p><b>Article 24 (health and health services)</b> Every child has the right to the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and the rehabilitation of health.</p>	<p><b>Article 25 (review of treatment in care)</b> If a child has been placed away from home (in care, hospital or custody, for example), they have the right to a regular check of their treatment and conditions of care.</p>	<p><b>Article 26 (social security)</b> States Parties shall recognize for every child the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance.</p>
<p><b>Article 27 (adequate standard of living)</b> Every child has the right to a standard of living that meets their physical, social and mental needs.</p>	<p><b>Article 28 (right to education)</b> Every child has the right to an education.</p>	<p><b>Article 29 (goals of education)</b> Education should develop a child's personality, talents and abilities to their fullest potential.</p>	<p><b>Article 30 (children of minorities)</b> Every child has the right to enjoy his/her own culture, to profess and practice his/her own religion and to use his/her own language.</p>	<p><b>Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)</b> Every child has the right to relax, play and join in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.</p>
<p><b>Article 32 (child labour)</b> All children should be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that interferes with the child's education, or is harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.</p>	<p><b>Article 33 (drug abuse)</b> Governments must protect children from the use of illegal drugs.</p>	<p><b>Article 34 (sexual exploitation)</b> States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse</p>	<p><b>Article 35 (abduction)</b> Governments must take all measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.</p>	<p><b>Article 36 (other forms of exploitation)</b> States Parties shall protect the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.</p>
<p><b>Article 37 (detention)</b> No child shall be tortured or subject to cruel or degrading treatment or punishment.</p>	<p><b>Article 38 (war and armed conflicts)</b> Every child has the right to protection during times of war.</p>	<p><b>Article 39 (rehabilitation of child victims)</b> States will support child victims in a way that fosters health, self-respect and dignity.</p>	<p><b>Article 40 (juvenile justice)</b> Every child accused of breaking the law shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty.</p>	<p><b>Article 41 (respect for national standards)</b> If the laws of a child's home country protect them better than the articles of the Convention, then those laws must stay.</p>
<p><b>Article 42 (knowledge of rights)</b> Governments must make the Convention known to children and adults.</p>	<p><b>Articles 43-54 (working together)</b> Adults and governments must work together to make sure all children get all their rights</p>			