

Year 4

Caring and responsibility

Lesson 2: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



Lesson context and overview

This is the second of three lessons exploring rights and responsibilities, and the links between them. This lesson introduces pupils to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and explores how these rights enable them to be safe and cared for.

Curriculum links

Relationship education: Respectful relationships

Pupils will learn:

- that in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority.

Resources

Presentation slides

Pupil worksheet: *The UN Convention on the Rights of the child* scenarios (plus teacher answer sheet)

Convention on the Rights of the Child Diamond 9 cards (pre-prepared; one set per small group)

Rights of the child information sheet

Key vocabulary

agreement, rights, convention, United Nations

Learning objectives

We will be learning about:

- the rights that all children are entitled to have in our country and beyond
- how these rights help children to be safe and cared for.

Learning outcomes

We will be able to:

- describe some of the rights that children have under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- explain why these rights are important in helping to keep us safe and cared for.

Essential teaching guidance

Please ensure you have read the guidelines on creating a safe teaching and learning environment before delivering these lessons.

Starter/baseline activity

Introduce pupils to the objectives and the key vocabulary for the lesson. Ask them to recall their learning from the first lesson. What were the main points? Explain that in this lesson they are going to be thinking a bit more about rights and responsibilities and why they are important to everyone.

In pairs, ask pupils to discuss and list five rights that they think every child needs to keep them safe, protected and cared for. Take responses, and highlight whether any pairs have said similar things. Why do they think children need these rights?

Explain that there is a special agreement that focuses on children's rights that nearly 200 countries – almost all of the countries in the world – have signed. This agreement, called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, has 54 different rights that children across the world must have, and every child is born having these rights.

Note: you may also want to explain what the United Nations is, why it exists and what it does. You can find useful information on the Save the Children website:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/what-we-do/childrens-rights/united-nations-convention-of-the-rights-of-the-child>

Core activities

1. Show slide 5 and explain that we are going to focus on nine of these rights in the lesson today. Explain that these rights apply as long as by applying them, people are not affecting the rights of others.

Organise pupils into groups and ask them to read through the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* scenarios and match each one to the right that the children on the slide are describing. Can they think of any examples of how the right impacts their own lives?

Note: an answer sheet is provided for teachers.

2. Give each group a set of Diamond 9 cards, and explain that each of the cards shows one of the nine rights above. Ask pupils to discuss each of the cards and decide which of the rights they think is the most important. They should then rank the rights in a diamond 9 shape with the one at the top being most important. Everyone in the group needs to agree which order the slides go in, and discuss their reasons for the ranking of each right.

Ask pupils to look at how other groups ranked the rights – did any groups agree? Discuss pupils' responses using questions such as:

- *Why did you rank the rights the way that you did?*
- *Was it easy to decide which rights were more important than others?*
- *Were you thinking about your own lives and what is important to you?*
- *How might your needs be different to those of other children across the world?*

3. Individually, ask each pupil to identify the right that means the most to them. Explain that you would like them to write a letter to the United Nations thanking them for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and explaining why this right is so important to their lives. Ask for volunteers to read out their letters.

Extension activity

Prepare a presentation for the prime minister outlining why it is important that all children in the UK have the rights that you have discussed in the lesson.

Ask pupils to identify where and how particular rights are being met within school, and the responsibilities they have to ensure that these rights are maintained.

Plenary

As a whole class, ask each pupil to give one reason why the rights of the child are important in keeping children safe and cared for. What could a child do if they felt that their rights weren't being met? Explore situations that might involve asking a grown-up for help and the processes in school for giving pupils a voice.

Assessment

Use the activities and discussion throughout the lesson to assess understanding of the learning objectives.