A CLASS LESSON

Children's Rights

Every child. Everywhere. Every day.

For 3rd to 6th Class



What Are Children's Rights?



Every child has rights.

Rights help children stay safe, healthy, learn, play and have their views taken seriously.

These rights belong to every child.

Right or Want?



Clean water



A birthday party

TALK ABOUT IT

Which is a right? Which is a want?
What makes you think that?

Six Rights Every Child Has



Health and clean water

Article 24



Education

Article 28



Suitable living conditions

Article 27



Play and rest

Article 31



Protection from harm

Article 19



Having your views heard

Article 12

Every Child. Every Right.

Every child has the same rights.

But children may need different support to enjoy those rights.

Being fair means helping everyone have the opportunity to take part.



TALK ABOUT IT

Does being fair always mean giving everyone exactly the same thing?

Rights Are Not Rewards

You don’t have to earn your rights.

Making a mistake doesn’t mean losing your rights.



TALK ABOUT IT

How can we respect other people’s rights?

Your Turn: Rights Talk

1 SORT

Sort the 12 crochet cards.

2 EXPLAIN

Tell your partner why you made each choice.

3 DISCUSS

Listen, ask questions and disagree kindly.

Some cards are harder than they first appear.

A RIGHT | **NOT SURE** | **A WANT**

One Right. One Action.



Which children's right would you like more people to understand?

What could our class or school do to help respect that right?

Our class could _____
so that _____.

Your voice matters.

How Children's Rights Developed

1924

The League of Nations adopted the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

1959

The United Nations adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

1989

The United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1992

Ireland ratified the Convention.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think countries needed to make agreements about children's rights?

One Person Who Helped Change Things



Eglantyne Jebb helped establish Save the Children.

She worked to improve children's lives and drafted an early declaration of children's rights. The League of Nations adopted it in 1924.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why was it important to recognise that children needed special protection?

The Right to Health



ARTICLE 24

Every child has the right to healthcare, safe drinking water and support for good health.

Children should be able to get the care they need.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why is it important that every child can get medical help when they need it?

The Right to Education



ARTICLE 28

Every child has the right to education.

Education helps children learn, develop skills and prepare for their futures.

TALK ABOUT IT

What might make it difficult for some children to attend school or learn?

The Right to Suitable Living Conditions



ARTICLE 27

Every child has the right to living conditions that support their development.

These include adequate food, clothing and housing.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why are food, clothing and somewhere suitable to live important for children's development?

The Right to Play and Rest



ARTICLE 31

Every child has the right to rest, leisure and play.

Children should have opportunities to enjoy activities, culture and recreation.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why is having time to play and relax important?

The Right to Be Safe



ARTICLE 19

Every child has the right to protection from violence, abuse and neglect.

Adults and governments have responsibilities to help keep children safe.

TALK ABOUT IT

What can schools do to help children feel safe and supported?

The Right to Have a Say



ARTICLE 12

Children have the right to express their views on matters affecting them.

Adults should listen and take those views seriously.

TALK ABOUT IT

How can adults show children that their opinions have been heard?

Children Who Helped Create Change

Ruby Bridges

New Orleans, 1960

In 1960, six-year-old Ruby Bridges helped break down racial segregation at William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans. She attended a school that had previously excluded Black children.

Malala Yousafzai

Pakistan

Malala spoke out for girls' right to education in Pakistan. She became an internationally recognised advocate for education. In 2014, aged 17, she received the Nobel Peace Prize.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do these stories teach us about fairness and the right to education?

Sources and Credits

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Irish Government: What is the UNCRC?
gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/publications/what-is-the-uncrc/

US National Park Service: Ruby Bridges
nps.gov/people/rubybridges.htm

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nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2014/yousafzai/facts/

Children's rights information adapted from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Anokha Learning is not affiliated with UNICEF.