



Activity >

Age: 8yrs +

Time: 20 minutes

Materials: Copies of the Rights cards, chairs

Right Suit

AIM: To highlight how young people don't always get to exercise their rights

What to do:

Participants sit in a circle on chairs. Give a Rights card to each participant. Explain that the cards are divided into four suits of rights – survival, development, protection and participation – with different rights in each suit. The leader calls out a suit and the participants with that suit must move one chair to their left. If there is already someone on the chair, sit on them. Players can only move if there is no one else sitting on top of them. Continue calling suits and the first person back to their original seat is the winner (to win the person must be sitting on their seat without anyone else on it). Finally, ask each participant to read out their card.

Debrief Questions:

- * What did it feel like to be able to move freely around the circle?
- * How did you feel when you could not move?
- * How do you think people's lives in Ireland and in other countries are affected by not having these rights?
- * Can you think of specific examples?

FACTBOX

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is a bill of rights for all children containing 54 articles, each one describing a specific right. The convention recognises a child as a person under 18, unless a country's laws recognise the age of majority (adulthood) earlier.

All rights in the Convention apply to all children without exception. After signing the convention a State takes on the responsibility to protect children from discrimination and to take positive steps to promote their rights. The UNCRC has been ratified by 193 nations – which is all except Somalia and the USA. On 30th Sept 1990, Ireland signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Under article 44 of the Convention, countries which have signed must give reports to the UN on the steps they have taken to bring their laws and government policy into line with the Convention.

Rights Cards

10 Survival

Enough food

A Survival

Clean water

J Survival

Health care

Q Survival

Shelter

5 Protection

Be protected from discrimination

8 Protection

Be protected from abuse

A Protection

Be protected from exploitation

K Protection

Special protection in wars

10 Participation

Take part in decisions affecting your life

K Participation

Know what your rights are

4 Participation

Have your own identity

A Participation

Have your own nationality

5 Development

Access to information

9 Development

Education

2 Development

Play

A Development

Special needs care