



# Our World

**Week Beginning: Monday 20 April 2020**



## This Week in Our World...

This week the focus of **'Our World'** is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12. This is the Article of the month for April, chosen by the Respecting Rights Committee.

At this time of Covid 19 restrictions, I am sure adults and children are finding it difficult to focus on rights, so remember to use these rights in the correct way – and to respect the rights of all of those around you.

# In Child Friendly Language



"Rights" are things every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Almost every country has agreed to these rights. All the rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important. Sometimes, we have to think about rights in terms of what is the best for children in a situation, and what is critical to life and protection from harm. As you grow, you have more responsibility to make choices and exercise your rights.



**Article 1** (definition of a child)  
A child is anyone under the age of 18, unless the law of the country provides for a higher age.

**Article 2** (non-discrimination)  
Every child has the same rights, no matter who they are or where they live, what their parents do, what their race, religion, or language is, what their ability is, or what their sex is.

**Article 3** (best interests of the child)  
In all decisions about a child, the child's best interests must come first.

**Article 4** (implementation of the Convention)  
Countries must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights by using laws, courts, and other systems that protect children's rights.

**Article 5** (parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities)  
Parents or other people who have care of a child should help them to understand their rights and use them in a way that fits with their age and ability.

**Article 6** (life, survival and development)  
Every child has the right to life, and governments should make sure every child has the best chance of surviving and developing fully.

**Article 7** (birth registration, name, nationality, care)  
Every child should be registered at birth, have a name, and a nationality. Governments should make sure every child has someone to take care of them.

**Article 8** (protection and preservation of identity)  
Every child has the right to their own name, nationality, and family relationships from when they are born.

**Article 9** (separation from parents)  
Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is in their best interests. If a child is separated from their parents, they should be reunited with them as soon as possible.

**Article 10** (family reunification)  
Children who have been separated from their families should be reunited with them as soon as possible.

**Article 11** (child abduction)  
Governments should make sure that children are not taken away from their families without their parents' consent.

**Article 12** (freedom of expression)  
Every child has the right to say what they think, feel, or believe, and to be listened to in all decisions that affect them.

**Article 13** (freedom of thought, belief and religion)  
Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.

**Article 14** (freedom of association)  
Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organizations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

**Article 15** (right to privacy)  
Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child's private, family and home life, including protecting children from unlawful attacks that harm their reputation.

**Article 16** (access to information from the media)  
Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from outside that could harm them.

**Article 17** (parental responsibilities and roles)  
Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for the child. Governments must support parents by creating support services for children and giving parents the help they need to raise their children.

**Article 18** (protection from violence, abuse and neglect)  
Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

**Article 19** (children unable to live with their family)  
If a child cannot be looked after by their immediate family, the government must give them special protection and assistance. This includes making sure the child is provided with alternative care that is continuous and respects the child's culture, language and religion.

**Article 20** (adoption)  
Governments must oversee the process of adoption to make sure it is safe, lawful and that it protects children's best interests. Children should only be adopted outside of their country if they cannot be placed with a family in their own country.

**Article 21** (freedom of movement)  
Every child has the right to move, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

**Article 22** (child labour)  
Governments must protect children from economic exploitation and work that is dangerous or might harm their health, development or education. Governments must set a minimum age for children to work and ensure that work conditions are safe and appropriate.

**Article 23** (leisure, play and culture)  
Every child has the right to leisure, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

**Article 24** (health and health services)  
Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

**Article 25** (review of treatment in care)  
If a child has been placed away from home for the purpose of care or protection (for example, with a foster family or in hospital), they have the right to a regular review of their treatment, and the way they are cared for and their wider circumstances.

**Article 26** (social security)  
Every child has the right to benefit from social security. Governments must provide social security, including financial support and other benefits, to families in need of assistance.

**Article 27** (adequate standard of living)  
Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.

**Article 28** (right to education)  
Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

**Article 29** (goals of education)  
Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

**Article 30** (children from minority or indigenous groups)  
Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, unless or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.

**Article 31** (leisure, play and culture)  
Every child has the right to leisure, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

**Article 32** (child labour)  
Governments must protect children from economic exploitation and work that is dangerous or might harm their health, development or education. Governments must set a minimum age for children to work and ensure that work conditions are safe and appropriate.

**Article 33** (drug abuse)  
Governments must protect children from the harmful use of drugs and from being



Can you remember the UNCRC posters that were displayed in your classroom?

## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



**Article 34** (protection from sexual exploitation and abuse)  
Governments must protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, including prostitution, pornography, and child marriage.

**Article 35** (trafficking in children)  
Governments must protect children from being sold or trafficked for any purpose.

**Article 36** (other forms of exploitation)  
Governments must protect children from all other forms of exploitation, for example the exploitation of children for political activities, by the media or for medical research.

**Article 37** (humane treatment and detention)  
Children must not be tortured, sentenced to the death penalty or suffer other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment. Children should be arrested, detained or imprisoned only as a last resort and for the shortest time possible. They must be treated with respect and care, and be able to keep in contact with their family. Children must not be put in prison with adults.

**Article 38** (war and armed conflict)  
Governments must not allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces. Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflicts.

**Article 39** (recovery from trauma and reintegration)  
Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life.

**Article 40** (juvenile justice)  
A child accused or guilty of breaking the law must be treated with dignity and respect. They have the right to legal assistance and a fair trial that takes account of their age. Governments must set a minimum age for children to be tried in a criminal court and manage a justice system that enables children who have been in conflict with the law to reintegrate into society.

**Article 41** (respect for higher national standards)  
If a country has laws and standards that go further than the present Convention, then the country must keep these laws.

**Article 42** (knowledge of rights)  
Governments must actively work to make sure children and adults know about the Convention.

**Article 45**  
UNICEF can provide expert advice and assistance on children's rights.

**OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS**  
There are three agreements, called Optional Protocols, that strengthen the Convention and add further safeguards for children. They are optional.

**Article 43-54** are about how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights, including:

**Article 43** (drug abuse)  
Governments must protect children from the harmful use of drugs and from being





# Article 12

**What is it?**

## Article 12

**You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.**



## ARTICLE 12: You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.



# Article 12

## Rights

Article 12 is considered a general principle of the CRC. This means it should be considered when thinking about any other articles in the Convention.

One of the things the UNCRC does is to make it clear that human rights apply to children and young people as much they do to adults.

Children and young people don't have as much power as adults: they can't vote, and they don't have as much money. But Article 12 says they still have the human right to have opinions and for these opinions to be heard and taken seriously.



# Article 12

## Being Able to Speak Up

It says that the opinions of children and young people should be considered when people make decisions about things that involve them, and that these opinions shouldn't be dismissed out of hand on the grounds of age. It also says children and young people should be given the information they need to make good decisions.

Article 12 is also concerned with making sure children and young people feel able to express their opinions. It says that they shouldn't feel their opinions will be dismissed or regarded as invalid because of their age. It also says that children and young people need to know about this right so that they can exercise it, and that adults need to know about this right so they don't dismiss it out of hand.



**considered**

**considered (adjective – past tense of  
consider)**

Something having been thought about  
carefully





Watch...



**Clip 1:**

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=RRWUZAWQ8TW](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRWUZAWQ8TW)