

FACTFILE: GCSE HOME ECONOMICS: Child Development



Children's Rights, Parental Responsibilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the children's rights, parental responsibilities and the UN Convention on the rights of the child.

Useful document

<http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/files/uncrcchildfriendlylanguage.pdf>

The Rights of a Child in child friendly language



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was produced by UNICEF. The convention has 54 articles which cover all aspects of a child's life. The convention means that all children should be treated as humans with rights.

The rights apply to all children no matter what their background is or where in the world they live. "These rights describe what a child needs to survive, grow, and live up to their potential in the world."

<http://www.unicef.org.uk/UNICEFs-Work/UN-Convention/>

The main focus of the convention is that all children should grow up in an environment of happiness, love and understanding.

Some of the main articles include:

Personality



The child should be given the opportunity to develop their personality, abilities, talents, rights, beliefs and to express themselves. This is stated in **Article 14** which states; “every child has the right to think and believe what they want and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights of parents to give their children information about this right.” **Article 29** also explains; “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.”

The parent has the responsibility to encourage any talents the child has. This could be done by taking them to various clubs and lessons such as football or violin lessons. The parents should also demonstrate their beliefs and rights and encourage the child to develop what they believe in.

Safety



The child should be kept safe from abuse and violence this is stated in two articles of the convention. **Article 19** explains that; “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.” Also **Article 39** of The UN Convention states “Children neglected, abused, exploited, tortured or who are victims of war must receive special help to help them recover their health, dignity and self-respect.”

The parent has the responsibility to keep the child safe from all forms of abuse. They should understand if they do not do this the government will investigate this further and ensure the child is kept safe and receives the help they require.

Education



The child should get access to education. This is stated in **Article 28** of the convention which explains; “every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free. Secondary education must be available for every child. Discipline in schools must respect children’s dignity. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.”

The parent has the responsibility to enrol the child in school and ensure they attend every day. When at school the parent should encourage their child to do well by helping them to complete homework and follow the school rules.

Health



The child should have access to health care. This is stated in **Article 24** which explains; “every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must work to provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.”

The parent has the responsibility to take the child to the doctors when needed and look after them when they are unwell. The parent is also responsible for taking them to other health professionals when

needed for example the dentist and keeping them healthy by giving them nutritious meals.

Shelter



The child should have a good standard of home/ shelter. This is stated in **Article 27** of the convention which explains; “every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical, social and mental needs. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.”

The parent has the responsibility to ensure the child is living in a home which is to a good standard and meets the child’s needs. This may include a house which has no damp and is kept warm.

Learning Activity

Read through the article of the rights of a child and come up with ways that parents could meet these rights.

https://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Rights_overview.pdf

