

Meeting in a Box: Children's rights in Wales

Resource Pack



The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

Contents of this box:

In this pack you will find:

- **An introduction** – including a 'Know your Rights!' poster.
- **Glossary game** - matching tiles.
- **Question posters**
- **Voting slips**
- **Activity leader instructions** – this explains what to do as a group.
- **Ballot box sign** – Set up a secret vote for the participants to tell us which Right is most important to them. Create your own ballot box using an unused box. Make an opening just big enough to insert the voting slip inside. Attach the ballot box sign to the front of the box to show the participants where to place their vote.
- **Feedback forms** – We need to hear what your participants said. Once you have finished the activity please complete the feedback forms and submit your answers by the Friday 4 October 2019.
- **Data protection** and **photo permission** forms.

You will also need:

- Paper and pens
- Blue tack and post-it notes
- An empty box to make your own ballot box
- Internet connection to access the film and feedback form (optional)

An Introduction

About the inquiry

The **National Assembly for Wales** has **14 committees**. One of these committees is the Children, Young People and Education Committee. This committee investigates subjects related to children, young people and education.

In 2011 the **Welsh Government** made a law which made **children's rights** very important. This was called the Rights of the Child and Young Persons (Wales) Measure. Nearly ten years on, the committee is now looking if this law has made any difference to the lives of children and young people.

The committee want to know:

1. How well children know their rights;
2. Do children think they have good access to these rights; and
3. What rights are most important to them.

Once we have listened to everyone's views, the committee will tell the Welsh Government what it needs to do to improve the way this law works.

For more detail about children's rights take a look at the 'Know your Rights!' poster produced by the **Children's Commissioner for Wales**.

Each article is take from the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**, or UNCRC for short.

Activity Leader instructions

Introduction



2 minutes

In a large group, ask the participants to put their hands up if;

- They have heard of 'Children's rights'
- They heard of the 'United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child', or UNCRC for short

Make a note of how many have and how many haven't for both questions to feedback later.

If less than half have heard of 'Children's rights' use **Activities A**.

If more than half have heard of 'Children's rights' use **Activities B**.

About the inquiry



10 minutes

Both Activity groups

Divide the whole group into groups of 2-3 participants.

Before the activity, divide the glossary game - matching tiles and get the participants to match up the glossary to the correct description.

Check everyone has put the answers in the correct place and answer any further questions they might have about the terminology.

Read aloud the 'About the inquiry' section and check everyone has understood by asking;

- How many committees are there?
- Which committee is investigating children's rights?
- What do they want to know?

Tell us about your rights



15 minutes

Activity A

Divide the whole group into groups of 4-5 participants.

Ask them to think about their rights - things that children need to be safe, healthy and happy.

Invite them to make a list or to draw things that they think are their rights. They can be colourful. They can describe a scene or they can be an object.

They can use the 'Know your Rights!' poster to help them.

Give them a time limit and when this is up, go around and circle where they have correctly identified their rights.

Collect these papers for feedback later.

Activity B

Place the question posters on the walls of the room in different areas. Give the participants post its and ask them to go around the room and write their answers down, posting them on the relevant poster. They can chat to their friends as they try to think of their answers:

- Tell us when you first found out about children's rights or the UNCRC? Do you remember how old you were?
- Where have you found the best information about your rights e.g. in school, online, at youth clubs, from your parents or carers?
- Do you think your rights are better now compared to when you first found out about them?
- Which rights do you think are better or worse and why?

Show us your rights



15 minutes

Activity A

As a group form a circle so everyone can hear the activity leader. Ask the participants these questions giving them plenty of time to think about their answers and make a note of their answers. Encourage everyone to contribute their own story if they want to:

- Now that you know about your rights, do you think your rights are being met?
- Are there any rights the Welsh Government should be doing more about and why?
- When did you first find out about children's rights or the UNCRC?
(remember some participants may answer they have only just found out about them but some may have known about them for a little while)

Do you think your parents and / or carers know what your rights are?

For those who knew about their rights ask:

- Where have you found the best information about your rights e.g. in school, online, at youth clubs, from your parents and / or carers?
- Do you think your rights are better now compared to when you first found out about them?



15 minutes

Activity B

Divide the whole group into groups of 4-5 participants

Ask them to think about their rights - things that children need to be safe, healthy and happy.

Invite them to make a list of what they believe are their rights. They can be objects or scenarios, e.g Access to healthy food or not to be cyber bullied.

Give them 5 minutes to make their list and then 5 minutes to choose where their list falls under these rights:

- My right to a good education
- My right to good physical and mental health
- My right to access travel
- My right to feel safe at home
- My right to feel safe in the area I live in
- My right to be listened to by people making decisions which affect children
- My right to access help and support if I'm disabled

Get the groups to feedback their answers to the whole group and check they have correctly identified their rights.

Collect their papers for feedback later.

Time to vote



10 minutes

Both Activity groups

Construct the ballot box – or ask one of the participants to do so.

Watch the spark video as a group to introduce the themes. Here is the link:

<https://spark.adobe.com/video/TGuCnp4M5h7pZ>

Before the session make enough copies of the voting slips to distribute one each to the participants.

Run a secret vote. Get the participants to decide what they think is the most important right that the Welsh Government should be doing more about by choosing from the rights listed on the voting slips. Or if they feel there is a right that isn't in the list, encourage them to add this to the final option.

Instruct them to put a cross in the box next to the one they feel is most important, fold it and place it in the ballot box in secret.

They may find the 'Know your Rights!' poster can help them understand the individual articles and make a decision but also encourage conversation about real life examples too.

Get the participant to tally up the results. Finish the session by declaring the winner of the vote.

Feedback



15 minutes

Activity Leader only

Using the feedback forms at the back of this pack, or the survey online, please answer the questions which will be used to feed into the inquiry by the Children, Young People and Education Committee.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/childrensrighswales>

It's important that we hear from the children about their lived experiences so the more information you can tell us from your session the better.

Please feel free to send pictures along with the photo permission forms to **seneddoutreach@assembly.wales**.

Please return your feedback form, photographs and the drawings the children made during this activity by Friday 4 October 2019.