

CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO

Live in safety

It is the duty of adults to protect you from violence and war. No one must harm you.

“Gender should not matter: we are all people.”

“To live in safety means that you can walk outside and go to your activities without any worries.”



CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO

Be themselves and be treated equally

You must not be treated worse than others because of the way you look, where you come from, what language you speak, what religion or beliefs you have. You must not be treated worse because you are an asylum seeker or a refugee. Tell an adult if you are discriminated against.

Children’s rights

The countries of the world have jointly agreed on the rights of the child in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Finland has committed to uphold. Adults must ensure that the rights of children who have come to Finland as refugees are also respected. When making decisions concerning a child, the best interests of the child must always be a primary consideration.

Everyone under the age of 18 is a child.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



Who will take care of you?

“My big brother looks after me; I look after my little sister.”
“Mum and dad. But parents cannot protect us when we are at school.”
“Teachers look after us at school.”



CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO

Know and receive information

You can look for information on topics that interest you online and from other sources. However, it is the duty of adults to protect you from information that could be harmful to you. They might, for example, restrict your Internet use or ban you from looking at a website or watching a TV programme. Adults cannot read messages you have sent or received without your permission. If they believe the messages could be harmful to you and want to see them, discuss it with them.

“My mother monitors my media use through Family Link.”
“My parents take my mobile from me during the school week.”
“I’m allowed to play with my mobile for one hour at a time.”

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Receive care and attention

You have the right to live with your parents if your home is a good and safe place. If for some reason your parents cannot take care of you, other adults will make sure you are looked after. You have a right to healthcare.

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Play, have leisure time and rest

Adults need to make sure you have time for rest, play, hobbies and spending time with friends.

“Sometimes I feel under pressure to achieve good grades at school to show at home.”
“My language skills developed quickly once I was in the same class with Finns.”

“Sometimes we have family discussion on, say, how long I can stay out.”

“If children are allowed to say their opinions, the world will become a better place.”



“If I was a director of a reception centre, I would get toys for the centre.”
“Mum and dad take me to my hobbies three times a week.”

CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO

Learn and attend school

You have the right to go to school for free and to receive support for your learning. At school, you can learn new things and skills that are important in life, such as respect for other people, tolerance and respect for the environment. You will learn about human rights, multiculturalism and equality. You also have the right to your own culture, religion and language.



CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO

Express their opinions and be heard

When adults make decision on issues concerning children, they need to find out what is best for you and discuss it with you. You have the right to express your opinion, but you don’t have to if you don’t want to. You can think and believe in any way you want.