

MATERIAL ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL AND UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION



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Lesson 1 – The changing rights of the child and the age limits

Content of the lesson

- Discussion on the rights of the child (10 mins)
- Familiarisation with the rights of the child and the National Child Strategy (5 mins)
- Discussion on the changing rights of the child (the child's rights at different ages) and completion of the assignments (25 mins)
- Revision of the topic of the lesson with a quiz (5 mins)

The objectives

- to familiarise oneself with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the National Child Strategy
- to learn about the age limits related to the rights and responsibilities of the child in Finland
- to form own opinions on the rights and responsibilities of the child.

Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:

The child shall have the right to express his or her own views freely in all matters affecting the child, and they must be given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

Article 13 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:

The child shall have the right to freedom of expression as long as it does not violate the rights of others. The child shall have the right to access information.

Materials

- Slide show An assignment on the rights of the child for small groups
- The National Child Strategy's video about the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Summary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Video The changing rights of the child
- Slide show The age limits for the rights of the child in Finland
- Assignment on the rights of the child and their realisation in Finland
- Quiz
- Answers to the assignment and the quiz



Instructions for the lesson

- 1) The rights of the child are discussed in the beginning. The learners form groups of 2–4 people. Statements are projected on the board and the groups respond to them either positively or negatively. Each statement is discussed briefly with the whole class.
- 2) The learners and the teacher watch the video on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, after which a summary of the Rights of the Child is presented to them. The different rights and their importance are discussed with the learners.
- 3) The learners and the teacher watch the video about the changing rights of the child at different ages in Finland. After that, the teacher goes through the changing rights and responsibilities of the child with the slide show. An assignment on the topic is completed with the learners and the right answers are discussed.
- 4) The key issues are revised with a quiz at the end of the lesson.

Remarks

- The Convention on the Rights of the Child may contain difficult terms and concepts which should be explained to the learners.

Lesson 2 - Sámi and Roma children in Finland

Content of the lesson

- Familiarisation with the topic with a mindmap (10 mins)
- Familiarisation with the Roma and Sámi minorities in Finland and their societal status (15 mins)
- Watching a video about young Sámi and Roma people and discussion on the topic (15 mins)
- A quiz to revise the matters discussed in the lesson (5 mins)

Objectives

- to learn about the Sámi and Roma minorities in Finland
- to increase awareness of and stimulate discussion on the status of these minorities in today's Finland
- to reflect on what everyone could themselves do to help minorities.

Article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practise his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.

The Article can be summarised to the learners in the following way:

Children from minorities have the right to their own language, culture and religion.

Materials

- Slide show The Roma in Finland
- Slide show The Sámi in Finland
- Video about Sámi and Roma children
- Quiz
- Answers to the quiz



Instructions for the lesson

- 1) As a warm-up, the teacher discusses with the learners what they already know about the Roma and the Sámi. The information is compiled in a shared mindmap (e.g. on the board).
- 2) The teacher goes through the basic information about the Roma and the Sámi minorities in Finland with two slide shows.
- 3) The teacher and the learners watch the video about Roma and Sámi children. After that, a discussion on the following issues follows on the basis of the video:
 - Do many Roma and Sámi children face prejudices and discrimination in Finland?
 - How do Roma and Sámi children hope to be seen by other people?
 - What do young people from these minorities hope from other people?
 - Which area of their own culture do both of them find important?
 - What could I do myself to help young people from minorities?
 - In what kind of matters should the opinion of children and young people be asked more often?
- 4) The key issues are revised with a quiz at the end of the lesson.

Remarks

- The topic of the lesson is sensitive and evokes emotions. The learners should be advised about appropriate use of language at the beginning of the lesson.
 - Remember that there may also be learners from minorities in the lesson and the topic cannot be discussed separately from the group of learners.
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Lesson 3 – Children and young people and work

Content of the lesson

- Discussion on summer job experiences (5 mins)
- Watching the video on children and work (5 mins)
- Discussion on the rights of children and young workers (10 mins)
- Completing the assignment on legal cases related to children and young people and work
- Revision of the topic of the lesson with a quiz (5 mins)

The objectives

- familiarisation with Finnish legislation on children and young people and work
- knowing one's own rights as an employee

Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:

The child shall have the opportunity to play and enjoy leisure.

Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:

Children must not be made to do work that is too strenuous or to work too long.

Materials

- Video about children and young people and work
- Slide show The rights of children and young workers
- Assignment on legal cases
- Quiz
- Right answers to the assignment on legal cases and the quiz



Instructions for the lesson

- 1) In the beginning, the learners discuss their own work experiences or those of the young people they know with their classmates.
- 2) The learners and the teacher watch the video on the rights of children and young workers.
- 3) The rights of underage workers are discussed with the help of the slide show.
- 4) The learners complete an assignment on legal cases related to the topic. The right answers to the assignment are discussed together.
- 5) The key issues are revised with a quiz at the end of the lesson.

