

Universal Children's Day

Did you know that there's a special day for children? Universal Children's Day is on 20 November. Read the article to find out more about it!

Instructions

Do the preparation exercise first. Then read the article and do the other exercises.

Preparation

Match the definitions (a-h) with the vocabulary (1-8).

Vocabulary	Definition
1. ...g... the United Nations	a. to make sure someone is safe
2. to promise to do something	b. to think that someone or something is important and deserves your attention and respect
3. to protect someone	c. an official agreement between countries
4. a convention	d. to be part of something or connected with something
5. to take someone or something seriously	e. to get control of something or to do something instead of someone else
6. a disability	f. to tell someone that you will certainly do something
7. to take over something	g. an international organisation that tries to help solve world problems
8. to get involved in something	h. an illness, injury or condition that makes it difficult for someone to do some things that other people do

Universal Children's Day

Universal Children's Day is on 20 November every year. Some people call it World Children's Day. On this day in 1989, the United Nations promised to protect children all over the world with an important agreement called the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

What is the Convention on the Rights of the Child?

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is a list of all the rights that children have. Rights are what we need to live a safe and happy life. Everyone in the world has rights, but children have special rights!

What rights do children have?

Children have lots of very important rights. Here are some of them.

- Children have the right to have a name and a nationality.
- Children have the right to be healthy. They must have help when they're ill, clean water, healthy food, clothes and a safe place to live.
- Children have the right to be safe. Nobody should be allowed to hurt them, and adults need to protect them. If someone hurts you, don't be afraid to tell someone. Talk to an adult you trust.
- Children have the right to say what they think. But be careful that what you say isn't rude and doesn't hurt others.
- Children have the right to rest and to play and take part in activities like music and art.
- Adults must look after children, love and protect them. It could be your parents or another adult that looks after you.
- Adults must listen to what children say and take their ideas and opinions seriously. Children often have very good ideas to share.

Every child has rights

The Convention on the Rights of the Child explains that every child in the world should have the same rights. It doesn't matter whether you're a boy or a girl, how old you are, where you live, what you look like, whether you're rich or poor or whether you have a disability.

Sadly, a lot of children in the world don't have everything they need to be safe and happy. Adults still have a lot of work so that every child has these rights.

What do people do on Universal Children's Day?

On Universal Children's Day, lots of children take over jobs that adults usually do! For example, a girl in Bangladesh read the news on TV, and people in the whole country listened to her! Or in Malaysia, some children announced the players in a football match at a huge stadium and walked onto the pitch with the players.

Schools and important buildings around the world light up in blue to celebrate this special day and remember child rights. Why not get involved and wear something blue this 20 November, and talk to your friends about children's rights?

Tasks

Task 1

Circle true or false for these sentences.

- | | | |
|--|------|--|
| 1. Universal Children's Day is on 20 September every year. | True | <input checked="" type="radio"/> False |
| 2. On this day in 1989, the United Nations promised to protect children all over the world. | True | False |
| 3. Children's rights are not important. | True | False |
| 4. The Convention on the Rights of the Child explains that every child in the world has the same rights. | True | False |
| 5. Many children in the world don't have everything they need to be safe and happy. | True | False |
| 6. A girl in Bangladesh read the news on her country's TV. | True | False |
| 7. In Malaysia, some children announced the singers in a concert. | True | False |
| 8. Schools and important buildings around the world light up in green to celebrate Universal Children's Day. | True | False |

Task 2

Put the words and phrases in order to make sentences.

1. Rights are what happy life. we need a safe and to live
-

2. have the right Children a name and to have a nationality.
-

3. and safe. They have to be the right healthy
-

4. what they the right think. to say They have
-

5. and protect them. look after Adults must children, love
-

6. say. listen to what children Adults must
-

Write and draw

What would you like to do if you could take over an adult's job for a day? Write about it and draw a picture.

Answers

Preparation task

1. g
2. f
3. a
4. c
5. b
6. h
7. e
8. d

Task 1

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. True
7. False
8. False

Task 2

1. Rights are what we need to live a safe and happy life.
2. Children have the right to have a name and a nationality.
3. They have the right to be healthy and safe.
4. They have the right to say what they think.
5. Adults must look after children, love and protect them.
6. Adults must listen to what children say.