



RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS

unicef 
UNITED KINGDOM

ARTICLE OF THE WEEK

TEACHER SLIDE

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Instructions

This flexible resource is intended to provide you with some easy to use, appropriate rights-related learning to share with your children, their families and your colleagues.

Please **edit out** non-relevant slides or tasks before sharing with students.

Please **check** the content works for your learners and feel free to add any content that would make the material more relevant to your setting.

GUESS THE ARTICLE

These pictures provide a clue to this week's article.

Can you guess how they are linked together? Which article of the Convention do these pictures relate to?

Write down your thoughts or discuss with someone in your home.



Unicef/Ijazah



Unicef/Armando



Unicef/Gilbertson

INTRODUCING... ARTICLE 3



Gerry introduces Article 3 - Best interests of the child

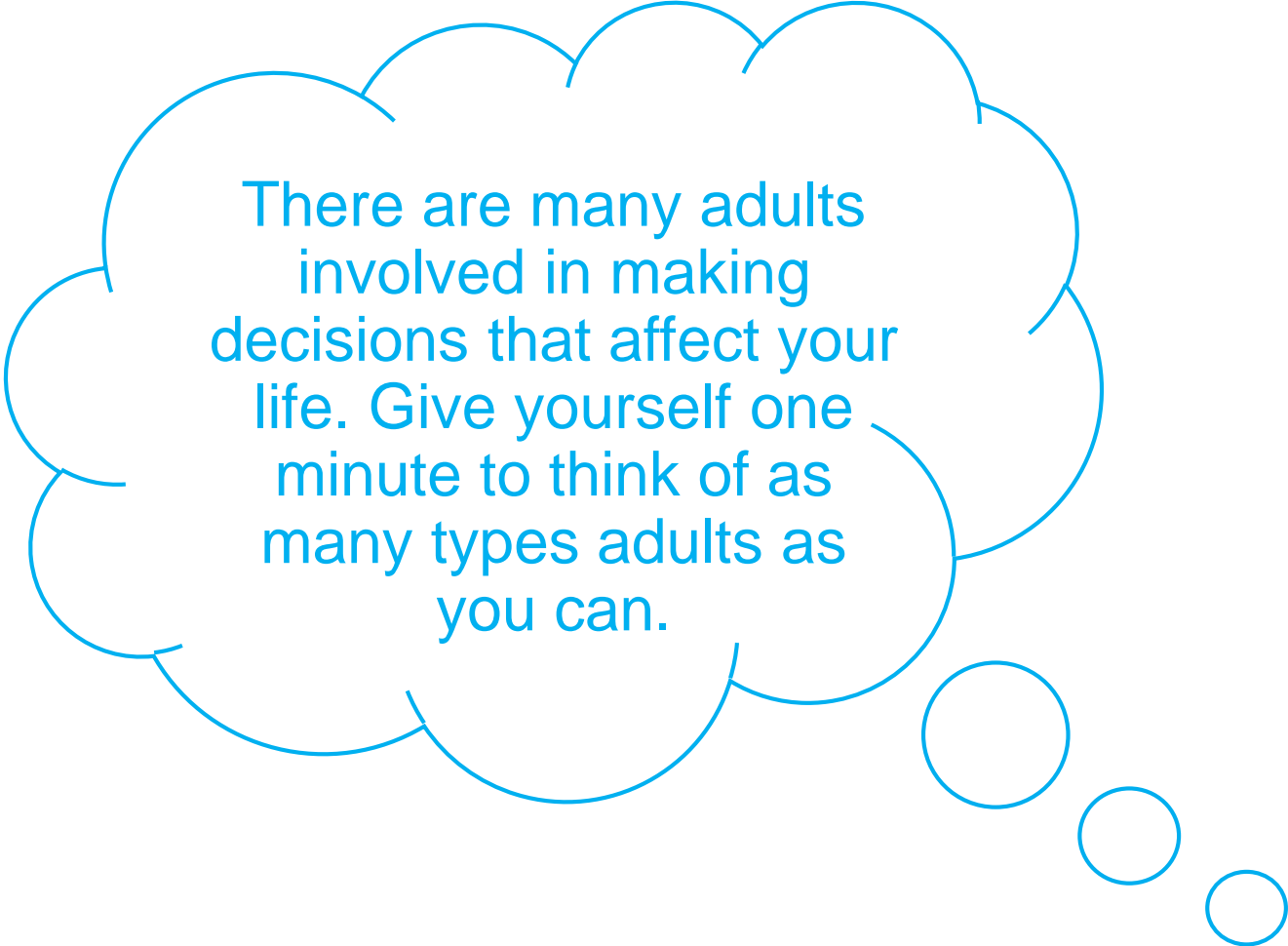


Article 3 – Best interests of the child

The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

[Watch Gerry on YouTube](#)

EXPLORING ARTICLE 3



There are many adults involved in making decisions that affect your life. Give yourself one minute to think of as many types adults as you can.

At the end of one minute share your thoughts.

Then compare with the ideas on the next slide.

HOW DID YOU GET ON?

DID YOUR THOUGHTS INCLUDE ANY OF THESE?

- Parents or carers
- Other family members
- Teachers
- Healthcare workers
- Social workers
- Sports coaches
- Youth workers
- Police officers
- Members of the government
- Courts officials – judges, lawyers

They should **all** put your best interests first when they make a decision that affects you, considering every part of your life, including your safety, your education, your views and your relationships with people in your family.

ACTIVITY TIME

All these activities are related to...

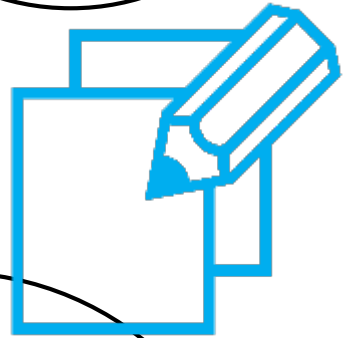


You don't need to do every single activity but if you have time you can do more than one.

This 9-year-old boy has written to an advice page. Working on your own or with a friend, can you write a reply to him?

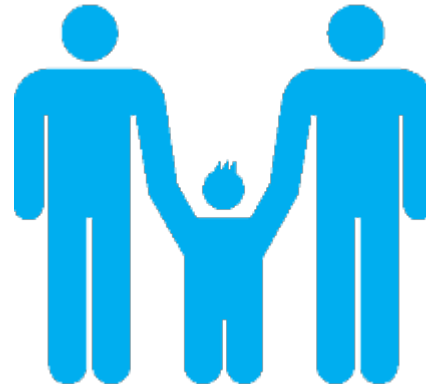
"OK, so when I was five, I got scared at the dentist's and bit her when she was looking at my teeth. She was hurting me, and I don't want to go again. For ages, my mum hasn't made me go, but now she says I must because she's worried my teeth are rotting. I said I'd run away if she made me go. I don't get why she would make me do it when I don't want to. What should I do?"

Talk to a friend and try to find three things that might be in your best interest but not theirs.



Don't forget you should be involved in decisions about your best interest.

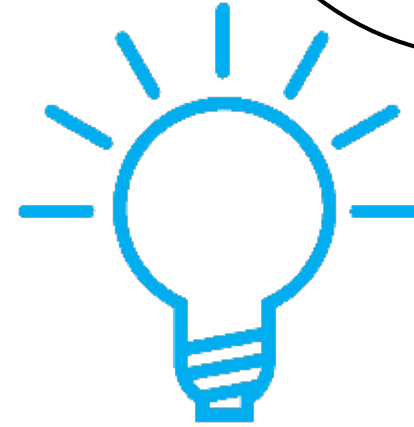
Write a letter to your local MP or your headteacher explaining how you would like to be involved in the decisions that affect you.



ACTIVITY TIME

Some decisions adults make affect one child, or a few children. Some decisions affect a lot of children. Can you think of any examples of a decision that affects one child, a few children, and many children?

Create a special badge, certificate or card to give to an adult you know who always think about what is best for you or for other children, to say well done or thank you?



Over the summer lots of things have changed in your school. These decisions were taken in your best interest. Can you list what changes have been made and why they are important.

Governments often make decisions that affect many children. Over the summer holidays in July the UK government decided to make vouchers available in the holiday to families whose children usually get free school meals. Do you think this was in the best interests of those children? Can you explain your viewpoint.

ACTIVITY TIME

These activities will help you understand how...



...can relate to your life.

You don't need to do every activity, just do as many as you can.

If adults - who might not know you - have to make decisions in your best interest what should they think about?

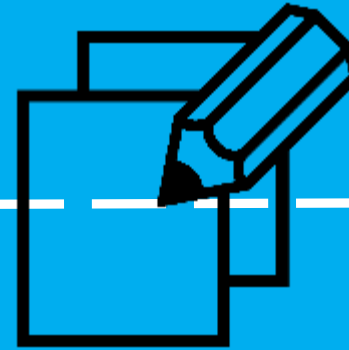


Think about how families involve their children in decisions. "What to have for dinner?" and "Should we move house?" are very different types of decision. Do you think all parents and carers are relaxed about involving young people in decisions? What advice would you give adults to make them better at this?

Over the summer lots of things have changed in your school. These decisions were taken in your best interest. Can you list what changes have been made and why they are important.



ACTIVITY TIME



Don't forget you should be involved in decisions about your best interest. Write a letter to your headteacher or your local MP explaining how you would like to be involved in the decisions that affect you.

What is in your best interest may not be the same for all young people in your class or school. Identify three examples where there is a difference between your best interest and those of others.

. Dutch teenager Laura Dekker was given her first yacht at the age of six and she became a very skilled sailor. When she was 14, a court in The Netherlands gave Laura permission to sail around the world alone. She had been stopped from doing this before because there were worries about her welfare. Do you think the court's decision was in Laura's best interests?

Governments often make decisions that affect many children. Over the summer holidays governments decided that secondary school pupils should wear masks in school. Do you think this is a good idea? Can you explain your view-point?



REFLECTION

Find somewhere quiet and give yourself some space to think:

- Who are the adults you trust to make decisions in your best interests?
- Think about how they involve you in the decision.

Can you think of decisions made or instructions given to you by adults which you don't like but you know they are right?



EXTENSION

Making decisions in the best interest of a child should normally involve listening to the views of the child or young person before making the decision.

Article 12 says that a child or young person should have a say in all matters that affect them.

What other articles could or should be considered for the **best interests** of the child to be achieved?

You can find a summary of the whole Convention [here](#).





THANK YOU