

Universal Children's Day November 20

Overview and Purpose

This lesson is designed to introduce children to Universal Children's Day and the rights of the child highlighted by this UN Day (all CRC Articles).

Background Information for Teachers

United Nations Universal Children's Day

unac.org/en/news_events/un_days/children1.asp

Public Health Agency of Canada

phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncd-jne/index-eng.php

Grade Level

K – 3

Materials Required

Book entitled *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox

Colouring supplies: felt pens/crayons/pastels/pencil crayons

Brown paper lunch bags

Scissors and glue, miscellaneous craft supplies (yarn, fabric, magazines, etc.)

Global Themes

- Images and Perception
- Social Justice
- Interdependence
- Conflict and Conflict Resolution
- Sustainable Action

- Introduce November 20th as Universal Children's Day; a UN day celebrated around the world. This day is important because it celebrates the adoption of the Convention of the Rights of the Child by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989.
- Ask the students why it is important to celebrate children. Why are children special?
- Read the book *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox. Review the Convention articles with the students. Ask why the rights are important in their lives and in the lives of children around the world. Ask the students which rights they feel are most important. Remind the students that no matter how different children may look on the outside, their rights are all the same.
- Give each student a brown lunch bag. Ask the students to design a puppet of them or of a character from the story. Have the students decorate the puppet.
- Put the students in small groups. Ask each group to select a right that they feel is important (remind the students that ALL rights are important and equal).
- In small groups, have the students create a short puppet show to show why the right is important and how children can have the right protected.
- Each group can present their puppet show to the class.

Part Two: Independent Activity

Materials Required

Children around the World worksheet (printable copies attached)

I am Special worksheet (printable copies attached)

- Ask students to think about how children from around the world (no matter where they live or who they are) are the same. Create a list on the board.
- Give each student a Children around the World worksheet. Have them complete the worksheet based on the class brainstorm.
- Remind students that while all children have similarities and that their needs are the same and that all children are protected by the same rights under the Convention that each child is still different. Ask the children to think of three things that make them special.
- Give each student an *I am Special* worksheet and ask them to complete it.

Extensions

Organize a class party and invite other classes or parents to participate in celebrating Universal Children's Day.

Have students work in pairs to trace themselves on a long roll of paper. Each student colours their outline and decorate to make them unique.

Universal Children's Day

All over the world there are children just like me!

All children are special but children from around the world have many things in common. Draw a picture to show how children around the world are the same.

Children from all around the world are the same because

Universal Children's Day I am Special!

Children from around the world are the same in many ways but each one is special. Think of what makes you special and draw a picture below.

These things make me special:

I am special because _____

_____.