Activity 1: Sorting Needs & Wants

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Why we like it: This activity encourages children to start thinking about 'needs' as 'rights'. It sparks interesting conversations, and there are some grey areas/tricky ones (e.g. bicycle, cell phone)

What you will need: Needs and Wants Hand Cards, piece of paper, marker

How long: 10 min to 30 min

How it works:

- In the video, Giggles was very excited about getting chocolate bars and roller skates during her visit to Canada. Are these 'needs' or 'wants'? Can you help Giggles to sort out the difference with these cards?
- On a piece of paper, ask children to draw a line in the middle of the page and write "Needs' on one side and 'Wants' on the other side
- Individually or in pairs, invite children to group the cards based on what is 'need' or 'want'

NEEDS	WANTS
Decent shelter (article 27)	Clothes in the latest style
Nutritious food (article 24)	A bicycle
Protection from abuse and neglect (article 19)	Holiday trips
Education (articles 28, 29)	Your own bedroom
Healthcare (article 24)	A tablet or computer
Fair-treatment and non-discrimination (article 2)	A T.V.
Clean air (article 24)	Money to spend as you like
Opportunities to share opinions (article 12)	Fast food
Playgrounds and recreation (article 30)	
Clean water (article 24)	
Opportunities to practice your own culture, language, and religion (article 31)	

Reflection:

- What items did you put in each group? What were your reasons?
- Was there anything that was hard or tricky to decide? Why?
- How are ‘needs’ connected to child ‘rights’?

Tips & variations: Ask students to colour, cut out the cards and glue them on a page.

Links:

- List of images to print
- Child Friendly UNCRC Poster
- PDF Activity 1 Outline

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