



# Child Thrive

## *Child Rights Resources for Your Classroom*

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## **Activity 5: The Arch of Rights – Hands Across Rights and Responsibilities**

# **Activity 5: The Arch of Rights – Hands Across Rights and Responsibilities**

**Why we like it:** This activity encourages children to think about the connections between ‘rights’ and ‘responsibilities’. It invites children to think about who is involved in protecting their rights and why (including themselves!).

**What you will need:** Child friendly UNCRC poster, different colours of construction paper, scissors, markers.

**How long:** 20-60 minutes

**How it works:**

- As a class, discuss what the words ‘right’ and ‘responsibility’ mean in the context of child rights. Ask how you make the two meet (like an arch – illustrate an arch by bringing your two hands together)

Every child in Canada and around the world from birth to 18 has rights. Rights are what you should have or be able to do to survive, thrive and meet

your full potential. All rights are equally important and are connected to each other. You are born with these rights, and no one can take them away.

While the rights change once you are an adult, they are similar.

- Children’s rights are special because adults and governments need to keep the promises that they have made in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Each right has a matching responsibility.
- As a class, make a list of different people that are responsible for child rights. Hint: Think of the people that help children to be healthy, safe, heard and to be themselves. Prompt: parents, doctors, police, teachers, nurses, social workers, faith-based leaders, clubs, government officials, etc., but also you and your friends.
- In pairs or small groups, ask students to trace their hands and cut them out. On one handprint write out ‘Rights’. Choose one right from the UNCRC and write it down. On the other hand, write ‘Responsibilities’ and add a corresponding responsibility to that hand. On the back of the responsibility hand, add the people who have this responsibility.
- If time permits, in groups, ask students to mix all the hands, pass them to another group and try to match the correct right to the responsibility. Encourage the students to come to a consensus about why they match.

### **Reflection:**

- Which were the easiest and most challenging cards to match? What was most interesting or surprising?
- What are some matching rights and responsibilities that you practice every day at school? (E.g. I have the right to feel and be safe at school – not bullied; and I have the responsibility to be respectful and kind to others).

### **Tips & variations:**

- This could also be turned into a ‘memory game’ style activity.
- Optional Activity – Ask students to create a short survey of students in class (or school) using statements about student rights. Examples may include “no one in our school is disciplined unfairly” or “all students are safe from discrimination”. Share the findings and discuss.

## Links:

- [National Child Day: Children's rights activity guide \(Source: Government of Canada\)](#)
- [Child Friendly UNCRC Poster \(Source: UNICEF.ca\)](#)
- [PDF Activity 5 Outline](#)

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