

English and Literacy: Children's rights

Lesson plan 1: Needs and wants

Age group: 8-10

Introduction and whole-class activity:

Ask the pupils about the things that they need every day, giving prompts such as food, drink, clothing, space to work or play, communication, health, transport etc. Write up their suggestions on the board.

Group activity:

Ask the pupils in pairs to write down the suggestions under two headings, 'Needs' and 'Wants'. (It may be necessary to include an additional space for anything that the pupils feel doesn't fit under Needs and Wants.) The pairs then make a group of four to compare and discuss results.

Is one list longer than the other? Why is that? Make a list of the pupils' results on the board. Are there any areas where the pupils disagree?

Plenary:

Ask the pupils to look at the list of needs. Encourage them to focus on things they really need to live. What do they think everyone has a right to? What is everyone entitled to?

You may have to prompt the pupils to consider family, shelter, safety, education, play, medicine, friendships etc. Mark the ones the whole class considers are essential for survival. Should these be rights for all children or just children in the class? Are there any other things that all children should be entitled to? Collect all the pupils' suggestions and write them on a chart, to be placed in a prominent place in the classroom for use or reference in future lessons.