

UNCRC – The United Nations Convention On The Rights Of The Child

Aim – The aim of this paper is to make information available to practitioners regarding the rights of the child linking some key articles. It also contains information on the Welsh Government highlighting the development in Wales on how children should be treated.

According to the Unisef paper on 'implementing child rights in early childhood' the UNCRC is a legally binding international agreement setting out civil, political, Economic, Social and culture rights of every child across the world regardless of their race, religion or abilities. And every child is intitled to them from birth to the age of 18.

Article 12 – Respect for the views of the child

Article 12 supports article 3 as they work alongside each other, article 3 can not be put into effect without article 12, together they highlight the importance of respecting the child's views and opinions.

Wellbeing of Future Generation Act 2015 – According to the well-being of future Generations. Wales website this act is the new law for Wales, who concentrate on improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales.

Children's Commissioner for Wales- According to the children's commissioner for Wales website they work with children grounded in the UNCRC to help deliver a better service for children and young people in Wales. Placing the UNCRC at the core of a child's experience making sure that they support children's rights and decision making, listening to children to find out what's important. They make sure that organizations who say they are going to do something keep to their promises.

The article looks at children's rights to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them, and that their opinions should matter. However, this does not mean that children can now tell their parents, adults or carers what to do, but encourages adults to involve children in decision making. This will benefit children by giving them freedom of expression and better their personal, social and political development.

Article 3 – Best interests of the child.

All children and parents should know their rights, as children's opinion should matter. Practitioners should be aware of children's rights and have their best interests at heart, but only act on these interests if the child is happy for them to do so.

Welsh Government- According to the Welsh Government website they summarised the UNCRC articles into 7 core aims, Article 3 is linked into many of them. These aims are; -

1. A flying start in life
2. Have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities
3. Enjoy health free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation
4. Have access to play, pleasure, sporting and culture activities
5. Are listened to and treated with respect and have their race and culture views recognised
6. Have a safe home and community who support physical and emotional well-being
7. Not disadvantaged by poverty.

UNCRC- gives special emphasis to four articles, known as general principles.

- Article 2 – non- discrimination
- Article 3 - the best interests of the child
- Article 6 - every child has the right to life, survival and development;
- Article 12 - the child's view must be considered and must matter if it affects him or her.

According to the unisef website, (Lansdown 2011) article 3 applies to actions affecting individual children, for example, if a child's parents were to separate they'd have to think about what's best for the child's interests and not on any principle of fairness or justice for the parent. It's important that the child's view is heard

Article 6- The rights to life survival and development

All articles cover 3 main themes, known as the 3p's

1. **Participation**- this is someone who actively contributes to society as a citizen in the here and now, not someone on the receiving end of good or bad treatment from others. With being a citizen comes responsibilities, for example paying tax. The Government have responsibilities to respect and protect us and a responsibility to recognise children's vulnerability.
2. **Provision**- This covers the Articles rights to survival and development health care, linking massively to article 6. This means that children have the rights to food and water, good education, and a nurturing environment for children to grow and develop.
3. **Protection**- This deal with articles exploiting children and young people, this could be physically, sexually and physiologically. The government have a duty to protect and must make sure people are aware of their rights.

According to the children's and young people's commissioner Scotland, children should be supported to live and grow. The website states that Article 6 recognize that Parties such as the Government should recognize that every child have a right to life and a right to live the maximum extent possible of survival and development.

According to unicef. (2016) on children rights the basic rights that children should have are food, shelter and medical care they need these for basic survival, and children should also have certain rights to develop, for example the right to education, play and recreation, freedom of thought, religion, culture and language so they can develop to their full potential.

Article 31- Leisure, play and culture

Every child should have a right to play and relax.

Foundation Phase Framework- The curriculum for wales foundation phase framework encourages kids to be creative, imaginative as they try to make learning more enjoyable and effective. According to the welsh Government on Play/Active Learning (2008) Play is an essential ingredient in the curriculum which should be fun and stimulating, the curriculum concentrates on covering the 7 aims.

Article 31 of the UNCRC says that children and young people have the right to have fun in the way they want to, this could be through physical activities or relaxing activities such as watching films or doing something else entirely, children have the right to rest, too just like adults. The government should make sure it's easy for them to do this without any barriers.

CSSIW- According to an article by where you stand (2020) The CSSIW was established in 2002, and their aims are to protect and promote the quality of life and independence for children. The CSSIW regulates and inspects services throughout Wales. Making sure everything is done to the correct standard. They make sure that practitioners respect the rights of the child through practice.

Estyn – The Estyn online website encourage outdoor playing for children, recommending that schools and settings should Provide opportunities for children to develop reading and writing skills outdoors and make sure that they have a good organised plan for learning indoors as well as outdoors. They should make sure they have well trained staff who are confident in using the outdoors to encourage children's learning and should respect that every child has a right to play indoors and outdoors and encourage that.

Local Authorities should provide make sure practitioners are equipped with proper training to help them provide the best plan for outdoor education. They should also work with schools and settings to improve the data available in order to view the effectiveness of outdoor learning.

And lastly the welsh government should provide some guidance on how to manage costs when it comes to outdoor learning facilities.

Conclusion:

In conclusion after looking at each article, it is clear to see that the rights of the child should be respected, and practitioners should make themselves aware of the rights that every child has. It is clear to see that children's opinions should matter and they should be able to say what they think should happen making decisions for themselves wherever is right to do so. They should also be given every opportunity possible with practitioners making it their duty to encourage and help children develop. Children should be protected and provided with basic human rights, things like water, food, shelter and a good education without having to work or ask for them. As a practitioner it is their duty to look out and safeguard children making sure their rights are met and respected.

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