

The rights of all children

Together (no date) states that, The United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child was outlined in 1989 and 196 countries have approved it. The UNCRC suggests that the government should safeguard the rights of all children ensuring that all children, young people, parents/ carers are aware of them. The UNCRC applies to all children under the age of 18 years old (Unicef, 2006: pg vii).

Lewis et al (no date) states that, the UNCRC is broadly approved on their human rights settlements. The UNCRC is used to develop settings policies and have become a requirement in Wales. UNCRC Decoded, (no date) points out that, the Welsh Government accepted the UNCRC in January 2004 as the base to follow when working with children. According to Lewis et al (no date) and UNCRC Decoded (no date; pg 7, in 2007) the Welsh Government published a policy called 'Rights to Action', they revolved this policy around the seven core aims. These core aims were originated from the UNCRC and are now implemented as a nations action plan in settings.

Article 2 Non – discrimination

CRIN (2018) shows that article 2 points out how all children should be respect and ensured their rights to be presented without any kind of discrimination, regardless of their parents/ carers race, their sex, language, political opinions, nationality, origin, money status or disabilities. Article 2 ensures that all children are protected against any type of discrimination made towards them (CRIN, 2018).

Meggitt et al (2011) and Tower Hamlets Council (2017) both state that, The Equality Act 2010 provides a legal and clear legislation to tackle discrimination effectively. Tower Hamlets Council (2017) suggests that the Equality Act 2010 provides children, young people and adults with a legal framework that protects the rights of each individual while encouraging equality. The Act was initiated in October 2010 and provides same levels of protection for all children who may face any type of discrimination (Meggitt et al, 2011)

According to Tower Hamlets Council (2017) settings need to ensure they have planned and considered any way they can improve any obstacles, policies and practices including the settings environment ensuring they are suitable for both the child and parent as well as any practitioners or professionals who work with the setting. Tower Hamlets Council (2017) states that, settings should include an inclusion policy indicating equal opportunities and ensuring the needs of everyone in the setting are met. 'It is vital that the writing of an Inclusion Policy is seen as a developmental process that involves the whole staff team and stakeholders' (Tower Hamlets Council, 2017: pg 15).

Article 12 – Respect for the views of the child

Committee on the rights of the child (2009) states that, article 12 indicates that children can form their own opinions/ views and expressing them freely with others. It also points out that, if the child needs to be offered the opportunity to be heard in a governmental or jurisdictional proceeding that can affect them. CNR (2009) highlights that article 12 is considered to interprets and implements all the other rights of the UNCRC. The UNCRC has become a requirement in Wales and since then progress has been achieved nationally when developing new legislations, policies and practises encouraging the implementation of article 12.

The Reggio Emilia Approach has many linkages to article 12 of the UNCRC. According to Day nurseries (2021) the Reggio Approach allows children to lead their own play and learning as the approach sees children as independent and interested

Article 12 continued.....

individuals with the potential to enhance their own development, learning from the environment around them as well as the relationships they build with other children and adults. The Reggio Emilia Approach: an enrichment case study (no date) shows that the Reggio Emilia Approach is open to differences and practitioners are encouraged to listen and recognise the importance of different views and opinions each individual child has as their thoughts and opinions need to be valued and respected as it creates an environment where children feel comfortable to make mistakes and learn from them.

Article 13 – Freedom of expression

According to Children and young people's commissioner Scotland (2015-2021) article 13 focuses on the rights of the child on expressing themselves the way they best see fit, article 13 also focuses on children having the opportunity to find out information regarding themselves on their own and sharing it with others if they feel comfortable to. This also links to children expressing themselves no matter their religion, culture or background.

Sally Holland from Children's Commissioner for Wales ensures she tells all children and young people their rights explaining to them how important they are. Children's commissioner for Wales also takes into consideration the decisions made by the Welsh Government and how it may affect the rights of each child (Children's Commissioner for Wales, 2021). Children's Commissioner for Wales (2021) broadly states 42 articles of the UNCRC and expresses article 13, they state that all children gave a right to receive information and convey information how they would like to whether it is orally, printed or handwritten. However, they also indicate that this article can have certain types of restrictions for example respecting the child's reputation or to protect matters of national security (Children's Commissioner for Wales, 2021).

In early years and secondary school settings children are given the opportunity to express their feelings and opinions through the school council. As stated by the Department of Education (no date) having a school council gives children the chance to voice their opinions and feelings on matters that impact them as well as others. By expressing opinions through the school council, it is shown that children have been able to enhance many aspects of their school life (Department of Education, no date).

Article 28 – Right to an Education

Children and young people's Commissioner for Wales (2015 - 2021) indicates that article 28 suggests that all children have the right to an education no matter their race, disability, gender, or if they have committed any crimes in the past. All children have the right to a primary and secondary education and when reaching year 10 children should have the opportunity to decide the subjects they would like to do. It is important that the Government support and ensure that children are not being humiliated by teacher or other students and all practitioners have a duty to make all efforts to ensure that a minimum of children are dropping out of school at the age of 16 years old.

The Welsh Government (2019) states that, The Foundation Phase bases their principles on learning through play. Play has been proven to be an important aspect of children's educational development and has been shown to help a child's communication and language skills. Through play children can begin to understand the world around them as they take initiative and risks when playing. Early Years Wales (2020) indicates that the Foundation Phase allows all children to be creative and use their imagination this allows them to create a more fun and effective environment for them to learn in. Play gives children the opportunity to develop their own thinking as they are surrounded by open-ended questions. Through play children can share ideas and problem solve allowing them to develop their educational learning (Early Years Matters, 2020).

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