



ARTICLE OF THE WEEK



RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS



unicef
UNITED KINGDOM

INSTRUCTIONS

This flexible resource is intended to provide you with some easy to use, appropriate rights-related learning to share with your children, their families and your colleagues.

Please **edit out non-relevant slides** or tasks before sharing with students. Please check the content works for your learners and feel free to add any content that would make the material more relevant to your setting.

This pack also provides links to learning resources from third parties and from the UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) that you can access for free.

- **Slide 3: Guess the Article**
- **Slide 4: Introducing Article 24**
- **Slide 5: Exploring Article 24 - Question**
- **Slide 6: Exploring Article 24 - Answers**
- **Slide 7, 8 & 9: Primary activities**
- **Slide 10, 11 & 12: Secondary activities**
- **Slide 13: Reflection**



GUESS THE ARTICLE



UNICEF/Khomenko



UNICEF/Abdul



UNICEF/Karacan



INTRODUCING ARTICLE 24

Katelyn Farrenson, RRSA Professional Adviser, introduces Article 24



[Click here](#) to watch on YouTube

Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health Awareness Week occurs every year in May and is an ideal time for us all to think about mental health, tackle stigma, and discuss how we can create school environments that protect our mental wellbeing.

The week is based around a different theme each year, and previous themes have included nature, kindness, and body image. It is hoped that as many people as possible will have conversations about mental health and the everyday things that can affect it.

Our mental health clearly links to Article 24 of the CRC but, if you think about it, many of the other rights that children and young people are entitled to, also contribute to good mental health. See how many connections you make to different rights in this week's activities.





EXPLORING MENTAL HEALTH

What do you need for positive mental health?

Have a think and write down some answers.



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EXPLORING MENTAL HEALTH

Did you think of these?

- Understanding the different types of emotions you have.
- Knowing that it is usual and ok to have times when you might feel sad or worried
- Learning different ways to look after your mental health
- Having a trusted adult to speak with about your feelings.
- Making sure you exercise regularly.
- Making sure you have a healthy diet.
- Spending relaxation and fun time with friends and or family.
- Taking part in hobbies or activities that you enjoy.
- Being involved in activities to help others.
- Limiting screen time or access to other online platforms.
- Health care – being able to see a doctor, nurse or counsellor if you need to.
- Being able to enjoy all your rights.

Did you think of anything else? Which rights do some of these things link to?

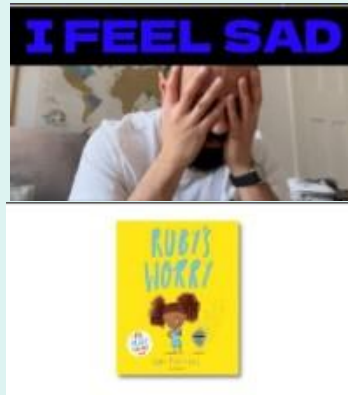


PRIMARY ACTIVITIES

You do not need to complete every activity but if you have time, you can try to complete more than one.

Read [Blue by Sarah Christou](#) or [Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival](#).

Who could you talk to if you felt sad or had a worry? Don't forget to remind children that they have a right to have their voice heard and to be taken seriously by adults.



[Watch this video](#) then talk to a friend or grown up and/or draw/write a list of things that make you feel happy or positive.

[Watch this video](#) then make a poster to give people ideas of who they could talk to if they are feeling worried.

Link this to Articles 12 and 24.

Watch and join in with this [video of the story of Dogger](#). Discuss in class about toys that are special to the children and why. Draw a story board and/or write a story with either real or imaginary adventures involving a special toy, or make an acrostic poem using the name of your special toy as the starting point, explaining what it means to you.

PRIMARY ACTIVITIES 2

You do not need to complete every activity but if you have time, you can try to complete more than one.

Helping others and being kind can make us feel happier. Make a 'thank you' card for someone you know to surprise them or make a 'thank you' chart or 'tree' for your class and ask everyone to put messages onto it. It's the job of duty bearers to make sure you get all your rights but it's good to thank them!

Mindfulness and relaxation can help our mental health. Try this relaxation activity. How did it make you feel? Discuss how activities like this might contribute to Articles 6, 24, 31 and any others?



Think about something that you have recently learnt or something you are getting better at (for example, at school, or a sport or hobby or a skill you use every day). What does it feel like when learning is easy and what does it feel like when learning is hard? Share your ideas in class and link your discussion to mental health and Article 29.

Being physically active can help us to feel and think in a positive way. Watch, and join in with, [this video](#). What rights does it mention in the video? Can you think of any other children's rights that link closely with mental health and wellbeing? Make up your own dance routine to the song in the video.

*Please note that the section linking rights and responsibilities is not accurate – **rights are unconditional!***

PRIMARY ACTIVITIES 3



You do not need to complete every activity but if you have time, you can try to complete more than one.

Design a poster or create a short play or song to show how respect, or a lack of it, can affect children's access to their rights and their mental health and wellbeing.

It's ok to have different feelings and moods, and talking about them links to your right to freedom of expression. Learn what the different colours mean in the 'Zones of Regulation'. How can you get back to green if you are in a different zone? Create your own Zones Bookmark to remind you of techniques that work for you.

Create a poster detailing all the people you can talk to if you are worried about something. They are the duty bearers for all of your rights. How many people can you think of? Display this around your school to remind other pupils of who they can talk to if they are feeling worried, sad or anxious.

[Watch and join in with this video](#) linking mental health and being active.

Discuss how does it bring together articles 13, 24, 29 and 31?

SECONDARY ACTIVITIES



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You do not need to complete every activity but if you have time, you can try to complete more than one.

[Take this mental health quiz](#) any of the answers surprise you?

Watch the video for young people on the same page.

Either by yourself or with others make an A to Z of words or phrases that you associate with your mental health and wellbeing. Choose two or three to write about in more detail. Try and match various children's rights to the ideas you have put down. You might choose to make a shared A to Z class poster of mental health and wellbeing.

Keep a chart for a week noting the things that you do to look after your health and wellbeing each day. Do you do a physical activity every day? Do you manage to make time to relax?

Find some time to try [this 15 minute body scan meditation](#). How do you feel after meditating in this way? When might it be good for you to use this again? Discuss how activities like this might contribute to Articles 6, 24, 31 and any others?



SECONDARY ACTIVITIES 2



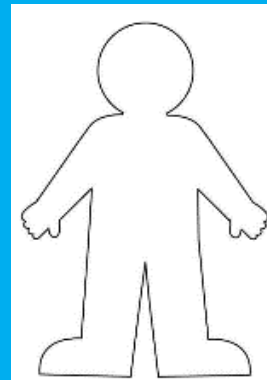
You do not need to complete every activity but if you have time, you can try to complete more than one.

‘Take care of yourself and you can take on the world’ – Imagine these words to be the opening line of a poem or a song. Add more lines and verses. (Try to link appropriate articles in too!) Consider sharing your finished piece.

Watch the **One Earth** video. Create your own visual representation of the Earth using both positive and negative images. Share on social media using #InvestInOurPlanet.



Anxiety and stress can make your body feel different things. Draw around one member of your group onto a large piece of paper or use a smaller template. Think about a time you felt stressed or anxious and draw or write around the outline the different ways this made you feel or the physical things that can happen to your body. Discuss all the ideas that come up - how could these be addressed or supported?



Explore [Voices of Youth](#), UNICEF’s digital community For Youth By Youth, and read blogs on mental health: Write your own blog about mental health and consider submitting it to Voices of Youth.

SECONDARY ACTIVITIES 3



You do not need to complete every activity but if you have time, you can try to complete more than one.

Use your right to access information to research the different organisations you can reach out to if you are feeling stressed or anxious such as [Young Minds](#) and [Mind](#) create a poster or information sheet for other pupils signposting them to who can help. Consider making a bi-lingual or multi-lingual poster or information sheet.

Use words, pictures and/or your own art work to create a collage of your values, ideas and thoughts. You could even do this digitally.

Display your work with others on a Mental Health Week display board. How does freedom of expression and belief (Articles 13 and 14) support positive mental health?

Watch the following [UNICEF videos](#) of youth advocates answering questions on how young people can improve their mental health. In Carmel's video, she says that it is important that "adults in the room are willing to listen". Use your experience and your rights knowledge to answer some of the questions posed in the videos. If you can, record a one-minute video to duty bearers about how they can support young people to have better mental health.

Write a letter to your local MP or councillor to tell them how you think government should support young people with their mental health. You can find who this is [here](#) or [here](#). Don't forget to mention any relevant rights to back up your point.

REFLECTION

Find somewhere quiet and give yourself time and space to think about the following:

Everybody has mental health – all the time! Most people have times when their mental health is not as good as it is at other times.

Education about health and wellbeing is part of Article 24.

- What have you learnt recently about your own mental health?
- What have you learnt about supporting the mental health of others?
- How do the other rights you enjoy support your mental health and wellbeing?

