



The State of Israel
Ministry of Education
The Pedagogical Administration
Chief Supervisor for Implementation of the Students' Rights Law

November 18th, 2024

International Children's Rights Day

"Children are not just going to be, but are human beings and therefore deserve respect" - Janusz Korczak

This year marks 100 years since the adoption of the first Child Rights Declaration by the League of Nations (the first iteration of the UN) in 1924, which was the first significant step in international recognition of children's and youth rights.

Janusz Korczak, the Jewish-Polish educator and writer, was a pioneer in the concept of children's rights. He believed that children deserve full rights as human beings, and viewed them as owning complete personalities, and not just "adults in the making".

The International Convention on the Rights of the Child was ratified by Israel and entered into force in November 1991.

The State of Israel has made the protection of children's rights a priority. By ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Israel officially committed to informing children, youth, and professionals working with children about the convention's contents and protecting the rights of all children in the country. The education system plays a key role in embedding children's rights and educating for personal, social, and national responsibility. Consequently, the convention's principles have been integrated into Israeli legislation, Ministry of Education procedures, and other government offices, demonstrating the state's deep commitment to children and youth.

At this time, when Israel is facing with the challenges of war, the protection of children's rights takes on even greater significance. Educational leaders and staffs are a significant anchor for students, providing emotional support and a sense of continuity and stability.

Knowledge and learning about children's rights are crucial in creating students' resilience, empowering them, and shaping their civic role to deepen their responsibility and involvement during both routine and emergency situations in school and community. We, as adults and education teams, are required to listen in the present and for the future. This active listening allows us to understand their



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insights about processes occurring in society and community, guide them, and include them in decisions that affect them.

The International Children's Rights Day provides an opportunity for reflection and appreciation of the Israeli society's significant achievements in protecting children's rights, especially during this challenging period. The social resilience and mutual responsibility demonstrated by Israeli society are an example and testament to a society's ability to unite and care for its most vulnerable members.

I call on each of you to take an active part in marking Children's Rights Week, which will occur this year, as always, starting from November 20th. Discuss with your students, learn with them the meanings of the topics included in the International Convention on Children's Rights, give expression to their unique voices on issues concerning them in school and society, and teach them how to act proactively to create impactful changes in their living environments.

"Together - all the way,
Together - no other way,
Hand in hand we'll extend to the good
That is yet to come, let it come..." - Leah Goldberg (**Israeli author**)

Sincerely,

Tova Ben Ari

Chief Supervisor for Implementation of the Student Rights Law
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