

## The Principle of the Good of the Child Shapes the Rights of Children in the Family: Abstract

"... The primary and uncontestable right of the child is to express his thoughts and take an active part in considerations and decisions pertaining to him. When we educate for respect and trust, when the child himself trusts and can say what his right is – there will be less riddles and mistakes."

Janusz Korczak

יאנוש קורצ'אק

All people are equal. All children have the right to be treated as respected, equal members of society, whether they are girls or boys. They have feelings, ideas and desires of their own. All adults and children have the right to protect their dignity, the dignity of others and, in particular, and their freedom.

Remember – our right to give rights is a milestone in our lives, indicating that we are noteworthy members of a democratic society.

Adults raised as possessed of rights will be **more** responsible for the rights of others, large or small. They will grow up to responsible, influential citizenship.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is one of the fundamental documents of democratic society, which builds value and humanistic social codes for itself.

### Examples of children's rights in the family: The rights of children

**The right of children to live** – ensuring life itself, ensuring children's existence

- The right of children to live
- The right of children to live in a home
- The right of children to live in a family environment and feel that he/she belongs to it
- The right of children to receive nourishment regularly
- The right of children to feel wanted and loved
- The right of children not to take a direct part in armed conflicts until they have reached the age of 18

**The right of children to participate** in making decisions that affects their lives

- The right to be heard – if a child or adult wishes to say something, it is their right to do so, and the obligation of their listeners to pay attention to what they say
- The right to feel belonging and familial love

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המינהל הפדגוגי  
הפיקוח ליישום חוק זכויות התלמיד

- The right of children to discuss things with their parents and siblings and to reach mutual understandings with them in all matters concerning household arrangements
- The right to express love and affection toward each parent, without being oppressed by a feeling of opposition by the other parent
- The right to be detached from conflicts between parents and from their problems
- The right of children to receive from their parents positive reinforcement about themselves, their abilities and their choices
- The right of children's to "freedom of expression" – to say what they wish, while considering others and on condition that they do not hurt others
- The right of freedom of expression is "hidden" in the right to attentive parents - the parents' responsibility
- To listen and to respond – limiting the possibilities of expression leads to discouragement and the accumulation of anger
- The right to receive honest answers to questions

**The right of children to protection** – children must be ensured protection against all forms of exploitation, cruelty and abuse

- The right to grow up in a supportive environment, free of exploitation, abuse or neglect
- The right of children to self-esteem – it is the parents' responsibility to open a "bank" of positive experiences, of personal and social success
- The right of children to privacy in their family – it is the parents' responsibility to respect their wishes and not to reveal their secrets to others
- The right of children to be protected – it is the parents' responsibility to teach them about patience and tolerance
- The right of children to be protected from physical or verbal violence
- The right of children to equal treatment from the adults in their homes/families
- The right of children to maintain their identities, including their citizenship, their names and their family ties
- The right of children to work at jobs permissible for young people (over the age of 15) for up to 8 hours a day

**The right of children to develop** – assurance of the necessary quality of life for the child's maximum development

- The right of children to receive continual care from two parents
- The right of children to emotional support from a supportive family
- The right of children to make independent decisions (freedom of choice) and to deal with the results
- The right of children to ask for what they want (respectfully), knowing that it is the right of others to refuse
- The right of children not to know or understand about a subject, and the parents' responsibility to explain it to their children

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המינהל הפדגוגי  
הפיקוח ליישום חוק זכויות התלמיד

- The right of children to leisure time – to enjoy themselves, to play and to participate in social, cultural, sporting and artistic activities, according to their personal preferences
- The right of children to "practice" their social skills, to make mistakes in their choices, and the parents' responsibility to guide them
- The right of children to build a different social framework for themselves, where it is pleasant for them to be and develop
- The right of children to fulfill their dreams and the parents' responsibility to provide them with the possibility of fulfillment
- The right of children and adults to freedom of thought and expression of one's own opinions
- The right of children to behave in accordance with the culture they have been raised in at home; the responsibility of children and adults in society to respect every culture as a point of departure for understanding other cultures
- The right of children to health services and the monitoring of their physical development
- The right of children to leisure time for their own various occupations or hobbies
- The right of children not to be separated from their parents against their will, unless competent authorities have decided that separation is in the child's best interest. The separated child has the right to maintain a direct connection, on a regular basis, with both parents, unless this would harm him/her (The Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 9).
- The right of children who are physically or emotionally handicapped to enjoy full, decent lives, under conditions that ensure dignity, promote self-reliance, expedite their integration into life in society and contribute to their personal development (The Convention, Article 23).

**Parents' responsibilities**

- It is the parents' responsibility to give love and a warm home to their children.
- It is the parents' responsibility to involve their children in all decisions affecting their lives.
- It is the parents' responsibility to provide for their children's emotional welfare.
- It is the parents' responsibility to be attentive to the needs of their children.
- It is the parents' responsibility to speak to their children on a verbal level consistent with the latter's evolving capacities.
- It is the parents' responsibility to converse with their children in order to develop the latter's conversational skills.
- It is the parents' responsibility to listen and respond to what their children say and to their desires, even when refusing to cooperate with them. The parents must honestly and pleasantly explain the reasons for their refusal.
- It is the parents' responsibility to foster in their children their awareness of themselves and their peers.

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- It is the parents' responsibility to speak to their children politely, showing consideration for their dignity.
- It is the parents' responsibility to enable their children to engage in play.
- It is the parents' responsibility to give their children compliments.
- It is the parents' responsibility to converse with their children in order to develop their linguistic abilities.
- It is the parents' responsibility to protect their children.
- It is the parents' responsibility to care for their children's health.
- It is the parents' responsibility to educate their children for social tolerance.
- It is the parents' responsibility to cooperate with the kindergarten or school, in order to understand what is studied there.