

Eight guidelines for children's libraries

based on the UN children's rights

Children's libraries realize children's rights - all over the world, because...

1 -...all children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis. (Act. 2)

2- ...children should be welcome and find protection from abuse and violence. They need an environment for discovering, learning, dreaming and reading in which they can develop themselves as far as possible free. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. (Act. 3 + 6)

3 -...children have the right to express their wishes and to write, paint, sing, dance or whatever tell their opinion. What they say should be heard, respected and taken seriously. Every child has a dignity, secrets and thoughts that must not be violated. (Act. 12-16)

4- ...experiences with community and friendship are very important. Children have the right to choose their own friends and to join groups, as long as it is not harmful to others. Therefore they need places where they can meet freely and can spend time with each other. (Act. 15)

5- ...children should learn in an understandable way what happens in the world, how people live together and why things always have to be changed or decided. For all of them, it should be possible to get free access to information and media in all forms and in different languages. Therefore it's particularly important that children's books are produced and disseminated. Adults should make sure that the information they are getting is not harmful (Act. 17)

6 -...every child has a right to education. Particularly it's important that people all over the world learn to read and to write. Tasks like this can only be successful with the support of different institutions. (Act. 28)

7 -...learning and reading is not only important for the future and the profession. For every day, there is the chance to gain experience and to develop talents. Children learn what's good for them and how they can contribute to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people. Books and other medias can help to share and to spread this knowledge of a good life. (Act. 29)

8 -...children have the right to play, rest and relax. They need times, where they can find peace for themselves. Children's books, movies and play materials help to enjoy those times. Places and times where they experience culture like music and theater, art and movement, are also important for them (Act. 31)

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