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TOOL 5F: RIGHTS AND NOT-QUITE-RIGHTS

LINKED TO:

• Sections 4.6, 5.1 & 5.13



- WHY?
 To help kids understand what their rights are in relation to talking to adults
 WHO WITH?
 Kids aged 9 to 13 years
 TIME?
 - This activity can done reasonably quickly but may take longer if kids want to further clarify the statements



YOU'LL NEED?

• Cut out copies of the "rights" and "not-quite-rights" and the "totally right", "totally wrong" and "kinda right, kinda wrong" cards

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WHAT TO DO:

- The "totally right", "kinda right, kinda wrong" and "totally wrong" cards are placed down on a table as a continuum.
- The worker tells the kid that they have a number of rights (things that they can expect) from the adults who are working with them and from the program more generally. The worker might want to ask the kids if they have any ideas of things that they think they should be able to expect and share a few if the kids are stumped.
- The worker tells the kids that they have a series of cards that state these rights but that there has been a mix-up – some of the cards have been tampered with and are no longer correct. The worker tells the kids that it's their job to determine

whether the cards are "totally right", "totally wrong" or "kinda right, kinda wrong" by placing them on the continuum.

- Children are handed the cards one by one and are asked to place them on the continuum. If they find it difficult to read, the worker should read out the statements and help them choose where to put them.
- When completed, the worker should ask the child how the "kinda right, kinda wrong" and "totally wrong" cards might be fixed so that the correct message is communicated.
- The rights that children have in their interactions with adults should then be explained using the cards. The "rights page" might be used to illustrate the messages.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

• This activity might be done standing: place the cards on opposite sides of a room and get kids to stand on a continuum to represent where they believe the statements should be placed.

TO THINK ABOUT:

 Kids will not necessarily share the same views as workers in regard to their rights and how they would like to be treated. This is OK. If there is a difference of opinion share with them how your service considers particular rights and what they might expect in particular situations.

HAZARD ZONES:

 Make it clear that these are expectations that kids can have of you and your service. In the past, kids have had fights with their parents because parents might not have a similar opinion about what kids can and can't do. (One child told his Mum that he had a right to decide what he would and wouldn't do around the house and that he chose not to clean his bedroom!

CARDS:

- Adults know what's best for kids and should make all the decisions about them
- Sometimes it's OK for kids to talk to their workers about stuff without their parents knowing

- Adults should never tell anyone things that kids tell them it's a secret
- Adults should respect kids and make sure they're not being hurt.
- If a kid says they want to do something they have to do it until the end even if they change their mind.
- If kids don't like what's happening they should just put up with it and shut up.
- Sometimes kids say or do dumb things so it's OK for adults to tell them that they're dumb.
- Adults should sometimes hide things from kids so that they don't worry
- Everything adults do with kids should be fun

Rights and not quite rights



Rights and not quite rights continued

Kids should be able to say whatever Adults should make they like- even if it sure that kids might hurt someone understand what they're else's feelings. asking them to do. **Adults have** Kids should be given spent a lot of time presents because then getting things readythey have to do so kids shouldn't what adults tell them. really try to change them. If kids don't like what's happening they should Adults should respect just put up with it kids and make sure and shut up. they're not being hurt.