

EDUCATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT

WHAT YOU CAN DO

AS A YOUNG PERSON

- Know your rights as a child and a citizen of your country.
- Know your right to be able to go to a safe school where you can learn, play and make friends.
- Understand why it is important to learn reading, writing, counting and all the other subjects – so that you can know about new things, express yourself and develop your talents.
- Know what are your talents and abilities, and learn to develop them.
- Express your views and know that you have the right to be heard.
- Listen to the views of others.
- Respect your teachers and all other children.
- Know that there are no differences between boys and girls.
- Know that the colour of your skin, where you live or where your family comes from, should not make a difference.
- Ask that your school be a place where you can be safe from danger and violence.
- Be your own person.

Go to Voices of Youth and make your voice heard.
www.unicef.org/voy

AS A PARENT

- Know your rights as a parent of a child and a citizen of your country.
- Know your child's rights, especially to education.
- Allow your child to express his/her views, and respect those views.
- Understand why it is important to promote literacy and education for every child.
- Identify any problems with your child's education – whether it be absentee teachers, weak curriculum or unsafe learning environment – and seek to have your views heard.
- Encourage your child to learn, and learn from your child.

Know the rights of your child.
Read about the Convention on the Rights of the Child
<http://www.unicef.org/crc/>

As a school principal or teacher

- Treat each student with dignity and respect, and value the views of each of them.
- Respect the identity, participation rights and integrity of every student.
- Create a respectful and inclusive classroom that is responsive to the needs of all students.
- Respect the cultural background, language and customs of each student, with a focus on vulnerable children, such as those from indigenous groups and ethnic minorities.
- Be understanding and tolerant, and do not humiliate children or injure them mentally or physically.
- Empower your students.
- Recognise that urban-rural disparities, poverty, disabilities and HIV are not reasons to deny any child the right to quality education.
- Ask that you have the appropriate resources and support to provide quality education for your students.

Know the rights of every child.

Read about the Convention on the Rights of the Child

(<http://www.unicef.org/crc/>)

As a policy maker or government advocate

- Recognise the rights of a child, as spelled out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Recognise the importance of achieving the second Millennium Development Goal, which is to achieve universal primary education.
- Commit yourself to protecting, promoting and fulfilling the right of every child to receive quality education, through legislation, policies, structures and programs.
- Commit yourself to reducing disparities and discrimination, with a focus on eliminating poverty and injustice.
- Make schools available and accessible (physically and economically) to all children, including the most marginalised.
- Adopt a rights-based approach when planning, designing and implementing programs.
- Focus not only on legislation and policies, but on capacity-building, such as providing schools, training teachers, developing the curriculum, monitoring standards, eliminating discrimination and promoting equal opportunity of access.
- Encourage the participation of a range of stakeholders – this means engaging with parents, teachers, religious leaders, community groups, as well as boys and girls of different ages, in and out of school, with and without disabilities, and from different ethnic groups, geographic locations and socio-economic situations.
- Invest in programs for early childhood care and education.
- Invest in holistic education programs that teach life skills, towards encouraging responsible autonomy, self-directed learning and preparation for full citizenship.
- Empower the citizens of your community or country.

Read how UNICEF's work with, and for, children has a central role in meeting six of the eight Millennium Development Goals. (<http://www.unicef.org/mdg>)