

# OVERVIEW OF THE WORKSHOP SERIES

## What is the Rights Respecting Schools Workshop Series?

The Rights Respecting Schools Workshop Series is an integral part of the Rights Respecting Schools initiative. This set of five professional development workshops for key adult members of the school community explores children's rights, rights respecting education and how to create an inclusive, safe and respectful school atmosphere using a children's rights approach.

The workshops are built around the four Rights Respecting Schools Building Blocks: *Awareness*, *Student Participation*, *Teaching and Learning*, and *Leadership*. Each workshop also provides an opportunity to examine good practices for achieving the benchmarks of each building block. Participants work together to examine the school's current practices and determine a way toward a more rights respecting school environment. Their ideas are captured in the school's RRS Action Plan, which is a work in progress during the Workshop Series.

## Who should participate in the workshops?

The workshops are for key adult members of the school community:

- all school staff (including administrative, teaching and other staff)
- key parent volunteers.

Schools may also wish to invite other select members of the wider school community (school board members, community members, etc.) to attend.

\*Students **do not** participate in the Rights Respecting Schools Workshop Series.

## Rights Respecting Schools Workshop Series

Workshop	Objectives
Workshop 1: Children's Rights and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore human and children's rights</li><li>• Work with the articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child</li><li>• Define 'Rights Respecting Education'</li><li>• Understand the Rights Respecting Schools initiative</li></ul>
Workshop 2: Building Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn what 'awareness of children's rights' looks like in a school</li><li>• Explore the importance of using a whole-school approach</li><li>• Determine the benefits and challenges of using a whole-school approach</li><li>• Examine good practices for building awareness</li></ul>
Workshop 3: Meaningful Student Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define 'Meaningful Student Participation'</li><li>• Mini-debate: Meaningful child participation – a little or a lot?</li><li>• Explore the levels of child participation</li><li>• Examine child participation at your school</li><li>• Examine good practices for creating meaningful student participation</li></ul>
Workshop 4: Teaching and Learning through a Rights Lens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Examine the 'how' and 'what' of Rights Respecting Education</li><li>• Develop a Classroom Charter</li><li>• Apply the 'how' to 'what' we teach using the curriculum</li><li>• Examine good practices for teaching and learning through a rights lens</li></ul>
Workshop 5: Leadership for a Rights Respecting School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore how to mediate conflict between rights in schools</li><li>• Perform a Children's Rights Compliance Test on a school policy</li><li>• Examine good practices for leadership of a Rights Respecting School</li></ul>

# WORKSHOP 1: CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND EDUCATION

## OVERVIEW

### Aim

This workshop explores the concepts of human and children's rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Participants learn about Rights-Respecting Education and how schools can uphold the rights of children through the Rights Respecting Schools initiative.

### Guiding Questions

- What are human rights? What are children's rights?
- What is the Convention on the Rights of the Child?
- What is the relationship between the Convention and Education?
- What is 'Rights-Respecting Education'? Why is it important?
- How do Rights Respecting Schools uphold and protect children's rights?
- How will our school become a Rights Respecting School?

### Activities / Timing

#### Explore

- Introduction 10 minutes
- Activity 1: Human and Children's Rights 30 minutes
- Activity 2: Clustering Rights 30 minutes

#### Respond

- Activity 3: Defining Rights Respecting Education 30 minutes

#### Take Action

- Activity 4: The Rights Respecting Schools Initiative 20 minutes

### How Can the School Prepare for Workshop 1?

- Make copies of the **Workshop 1 Handouts** (package will be provided by Workshop Facilitator)
- Ask all workshop participants to bring an empty binder to the Workshop Series to hold handouts and resources
- Arrange for a multimedia projector, speakers, screen and laptop

**Note:** Workshop 1 has been designed to be 2 hours in length. However, if your school has arranged for a workshop of a different length then your facilitator will adapt the above activities to suit your school's needs.