

TIPS FOR ESTABLISHING THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS TEAM

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TEAM

The Children's Rights Team is responsible for guiding the process of becoming a Rights Respecting School. Some of its main tasks include:

- Liaising with an RRS Facilitator
- Photocopying and preparing materials for workshops
- Organizing the *Initial Rights Assessment*
- Formulating the *RRS Action Plan*
- Providing leadership for the implementation of the *RRS Action Plan*
- Organizing the *Follow-Up Rights Assessment*
- Preparing the *RRS Action Plan Review*.

Choosing the Team

- Be respectful of the *right to participate* and encourage anyone who is interested to join
- When turnout is too high, choose a democratic method to narrow down the numbers

COMPOSING THE TEAM

When establishing the Children's Rights Team it is important to ensure that it is representative of the different members of the school community (students, staff, parents, other community members). Use the following questions as a guide to forming your group:

- Who represents the various members of our school community?
- Which stakeholders are needed to facilitate change at all levels?
- Who has skills and knowledge to contribute to the initiative?

On the Children's Rights Team it is crucial to include:

- Students representing multiple age groups
- Teachers with enthusiasm for the Rights Respecting Schools initiative
- An administrator from the school
- A non-teaching staff member
- A parent and/or community member.

It is also valuable to include (where possible):

- A school board member
- Representatives from related school groups (e.g. student cultural or global issues groups; multicultural, equity and diversity committees; student advisory committees; student councils).

Note: Due to varying commitment levels and availability, some members of the Children's Rights Team may act in the role of advisor or liaison instead of regular attendant. However, it is still important to invite all members onto the team at the beginning of the initiative.

Source: *Tips for Establishing the RRS Planning Team* was adapted from *UNICEF UK Rights Respecting School Award: A Guide to the Award for Primary Schools* (2008).