



Salvați Copiii

Save the Children Romania

Filiala Timișoara

GRUNDTVIG PARTNERSHIP 2013-2015

**“ENGAGING DISADVANTAGED PARENTS TO
ACQUIRE PARENTING SKILLS ”**

EDPAPS

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Parents – Children, Rights and Responsibilities



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Save the Children is a non-governmental organization. Its main goal is promoting child's rights. We manage to achieve this goal through different activities like Save the Children day care centres, raising public's opinion awareness through information campaigns in public spaces and not lately annual programmes for informing the children in the country's schools.

The oldest way through which Save the Children raises the public's opinion awareness regarding child's rights are the direct activities in schools. In the school year 2014-2015 Save the Children Timis branch succeeded to inform more than 1000 children regarding their rights. These types of activities imply three steps meant to help each student to discover which are their rights and to better understand them.



During the months of March and April two different information activities than usual took place. Their purpose was to discover the children's perception regarding the parents responsibilities in terms of child's rights. These types of informations contain three types of activities as follows:

A first type of activity is a brainstorming we do with the children starting with from the „Child’s rights” sintagm, where the students are encouraged to mention as many words as they can, that are in a less or more direct relationship with the theme. All the words they mention are written on a board, being the starting point of a discussion that emphasizes on the fact that „the rights” represent each’s human being fundamental needs, that are meant to be protected and respected.

A second activity of the information programme we do in schools is called „Because I am a human being I deserve to...”. The sintagm is written on a board and then the children are asked to continue it as they wish. 10 ideas are written on the board and then the children are asked to offer marks from 1 to 10 to these sentences, each mark being offered only one time. 10 is the mark that shows the most important idea on the board. The goal of this second activity is to help the children realise what are the whole classroom’s needs and so to understand the values of the group they are part of.

The last part of the activity with the students is dedicated to the parent and child relationship in the child’s rights context. The purpose of this activity is discovering the relationship between the adult/parent and each child’s right: the right to education, family, information, nutrition, medical assistance, free time, participation, name and nationality and protection. The children are divided into groups of 4-5 because in this way the discussions are more fluid, although all children are encouraged to involve.

The conclusions are always the same, the students being amazed by the strong interdependency that exists between each of their rights and the parent and discovering through this occasion how important the parents are in their life. In this form we try to empower them to invest more interest, respect and responsibility in the relationship each child has with his parent.

Following these activities, an orientative guide regarding the responsibilities that parents have in the life of their children (responsibilities that the children thought about and described through the activities) can easily be done.

The guide of the parent that is responsible of the child’s rights:

The right to education is one of the most important and defining rights that children have and is extremely important for his development as an adult. The participant children considered that parents are the most important pillars in terms of respecting this right together with the teachers and the school master. The parents responsibilities as children identified them are as follows: involving both the mother and the father in the daily process of homeworks, maintaining a constant relationship with the school teacher/ form master, receiving all the necessary materials

(writing materials) for school, children's intrinsic and extrinsic motivation in order to arise their interest for school.

1. *The right to have a family:* where we can easily observe the importance of parents in practicing and respecting this right. The main responsibility that each child mentioned was that each child, no matter the age, financial status or nationality needs a mother and a father. If the family is not united, children say, than surely the child will not be totally happy. Each parent brings in the relationship care, support, help, involvement and a certain special way of being that the other parent can not replace. The parents responsibility regarding this right is to respect the idea of a family and always be there next to his/her child.



2. *The right to be informed:* each child needs a lot of information in order to discover the world around him/her, to adjust to it, to know the difference between good and bad. In this context, the participant children considered that the parents are actually the main responsables in helping their children to know the reality and of course to learn how to chose best.
3. *The right to food:* again the main responsables to respect and satisfy this right of the child are the parents. When giving birth the mother is the one that knows when to feed her

baby and does it directly. Then, as the child grows older the food he eats is also prepared by the parents. Here, the participants also mentioned the importance and responsibility of their parents to work in order to buy the necessary food for the child.

4. *The right to medical assistance:* the parent is responsible of his/her child, of protecting him/her in order not to get ill, of dressing him/her according to the weather outside and of course to supervise the child in any situation. These are the responsibilities identified by the participants, here also mentioning accompanying the child to the doctor when needed.
5. *The right to leisure time:* children need leisure time in order to relax, and again, parents have a big responsibility in terms of allowing the child to enjoy it. In the same time, in order for the leisure time to be satisfying the parents need to ensure different materials (toys) for their children. Another responsibility that was identified in the working groups was the need of some activities in the leisure time that involve both the parents and the child and that will bring a lot of appreciation from the children.
6. *The right to participation:* parents should always remember the fact that their children are also part of the family and their opinions matter and are important. So, it is important that parents listen to their children in the situations that are important for them or that can be easily understood by them. In this way the parents help the child to become an adult and teach the child how to be responsible.
7. *The right to have a name and a nationality:* again parents were considered the main responsible in terms of this right. The participant children emphasized that the parents are the ones that chose a name for their child and also, are the ones that should take care that the child has a birth certificate, belonging to a country and having a nationality.
8. *The right to protection:* being protected is an important and elementary need as to raise a child in a safe and healthy way. Since the child is born, the parents are the ones that take care and protection to their child, helping the child to feel comfortable.

The present guide, other than the fact that manages to integrate the diverse responsibilities that parents have towards their children (mentioned by the participant children) also emphasises the importance parents have in raising, educating and preparing the child for the society.