



YES-DAY ACTION GUIDE

Thank you for taking part in our school initiative and advocating for the participation of children and young people! Together, we say YES to participation and children's rights.

What exactly is YES-Day?

YES-Day is a participatory UNICEF event held on November 20, International Children's Rights Day. It focuses on Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: the right to participation. Students make their own decisions and experience participation in everyday school life.

Children have the right to have a say in all decisions that affect them. Their views must be given due consideration. (Art. 12, CRC)

Materials



Guide to the initiative

Guidelines for teachers and other school staff



Voting sticker sheet (A4)

For a democratic selection process



"Our YES-Day" planning poster (A2)

For noting ideas and to-dos



Digital resources

Background information on participation and Children's Rights Day, a mind map with activity ideas, and communication materials



<https://unicef-ch.app.box.com/s/1u00pg9jt144s18jmewzfrz41g1ht6q6>

Step by step

1 Define the framework

Set the parameters within which students can vote. They provide guidance and ensure that the event is feasible at school. The framework can also be agreed with students.

Possible frameworks:

FRAMEWORK	EXAMPLES
Learning environment	Outdoor classes, library, computer lab, city hall, another school
Lesson topic	Free choice of topic for a course
Lunch break	Music, games, eating together, starting the day together
Trip	Choose the destination together
School life	Start a new working group, design the schoolyard
Project day	Sports association, music group, cooperation partners

The framework mind map in the digital resources offers further inspiration.

2 Gather ideas

Students develop ideas for YES-Day. Depending on the group and time available, different methods are possible:

- Anonymous: write ideas on pieces of paper and collect them
- In small groups: brainstorm and present the ideas to the group
- In the whole group: open brainstorming with the class
- Digital: e.g. Mentimeter, Padlet or similar tools

Similar suggestions are then grouped together.

3 Vote democratically

Every vote counts! Students choose together which idea to implement using the YES! voting stickers:

1. Display all suggestions clearly or write them down.
2. Each student and teacher sticks the sticker on their favourite idea.
3. The idea with the most votes wins.

4 Plan the event

The selected idea is prepared in detail. The “Our YES-Day” planning poster helps keep track of the key points:

- When and where is YES-Day taking place?
- What exactly are we doing?
- What are the next tasks?
- What is needed?
- Who is responsible for which task?

5 Implement YES-Day

The school, class or group holds its YES-Day around Children’s Rights Day. The teacher guides the process and provides support as needed.

6 Evaluate and document – optional

After YES-Day, take a moment to reflect together:

- What went well and what was fun?
- What would we do differently next time?

Document, photograph or share the results through the school newsletter, website or UNICEF campaign.

We hope you and your students have a great time, and we’re really looking forward to all the wonderful and diverse YES-Days taking place in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Please feel free to share photos or content from your event with us:

childrights@unicef.ch