The Child Guarantee Game

… cocreated as part of Reaching In to help children reflect on their rights and suggest priorities for investment

Development of the game

This game was codevelop by children working with Fundacio Pere Closa, together with The Centre for Children and Young People's Participation at the University of Central Lancashire and Eurochild.

It is made up of a set of cards divided according to family/suit related to the themes of the Child Guarantee (health, education, housing, meals, well-being) and EU money .

The idea is that the children can reflect on these basic human rights through a game in order to make it more fun and dynamic. Through this reflection, they can talk about the experience of children in their communities and the things that may need to change. They can also talk about decisions about where to invest more money.

The game was cocreated with children attending a school in the province of Barcelona. 20 different nationalities live together within the walls of the school, making it a truly multicultural and intercultural surrounding. Among the Spanish students, 85% are of Roma ethnicity, followed by students from Pakistan and Morocco as well as Latin American students and a smaller percentage of Chinese students. This cultural diversity enriches our community and our own culture, especially for the teachers and families to be exposed to such a rich cultural heritage.

All the children face severe socio-economic problems, making them a vulnerable group within society. In this sense, it is a highly complex educational centre that, due to the social composition of the students and its location in neighbourhoods in which the economic crisis has had a strong impact, requires additional mechanisms (more resources, more professionals, more specialists) to avoid ghettos and school segregation.

An example of playing the game

Classes of around 30 students each were divided into 2 small groups; 10-15 students each of different age ranges (from 3 to 12 years old). This way each child felt more comfortable within their own smaller group.

There was an adult there present at all time to guide them, but the idea was to let the children take on the main role. They were in charge of dealing with the cards and the adults mainly left them to their own devices because the idea was to let them lead without having an authorities figure that inhibits children's character and thinking.

Playing the game is similar to playing a game of ludo. The main idea of the game is for each student to pick as many of the same card as possible and reach the finishing line. There are a total of 5 cards of the same topic which are needed in order to strike a match. Whomever gets a match first, wins.

The two groups have two different starting points, they roll a dice and once they land on a box and the letter is read, they can vote whether the right is fulfilled or not. In case it is a right that has not been accomplished, they can decide to invest using the cards with the € illustration. If they consider

that it is a right which has already been accomplished, they can roll the dice again and move on to another card.

The coins are a way for students to pick up 2 cards allowing them to get closer to their goal. Of course, it goes without saying though that the purpose of this game was not to generate competition, the element of competitiveness was to entice excitement in the children while also learning at the same time, having fun with their peers and thinking about what these cards mean when translated into reality.

The process did not end when the children collected the final cards. After playing the game, it was important to ensure that students understood what it all meant and hear their different opinions on the subject. Therefore, we presented a set of open questions to discuss together in class. Again, the adult's job was simply to present said questions without answering them as it was the children's time to be heard and share their personal opinions considering their own situation and experience.

In wording the cards, a lot of attention was paid to thinking about how to avoid exposing children to harm, by asking them about things that might be too personal.

How to play

Print and cut up the cards on the next page, so that they can be used like a pack of card.

Up to 5 groups can play the game at the same time.

Explain that this is a game to help understand what the EU says should happen for all children in EU countries. You may need to explain that the EU is a group of countries who have decided to work together.

1. The aim of the game is to be the first person to get 4 cards in the same family/suit. These are the five suits:

2. Deal four cards to each player then put the other cards in a pile in the middle.
3. Players take it in turn to pick up extra cards to try to complete their family/suit. Every time they pick up one card, they must put another card down.
4. If they pick up a 'EU Euros' card   they can pick up two cards on their next turn. But they must also put two cards down.

5. The WINNER is the first person to get 4 cards the same.
6. Carry on playing until everyone has 4 cards of the suit they have chosen.
7. Then end the game and ask people to share what is on their cards.

Young children can go to school and play	**Roma children can go to school, live in a house and eat healthy delicious food**	**Disabled children can go to school, live in a house and eat healthy delicious food**	**Children with special care, can go to school, live in a house and eat healthy delicious food**	**All children have all these things in this game**
Children know what being healthy means	**Children play activities and are healthy**	**Doctors find out what is wrong when someone gets sick**	**Illnesses are prevented**	**Children receive help to be as healthy as possible**
Children stay at school until 18 years old	**Schools give extra support for children who need it**	**Schools are not separated by ethnicity or disability**	**Children can do sport, play and school trips**	**Schools include everyone**

Children do not keep moving from house to house	**Children do not become homeless because of energy costs**	**Children are never taken into a children's home because of bad housing**	**Children live in nice homes**	**Young people leaving care are helped to become independent**
Children have at least one healthy meal a day in schools, free	**Children have healthy meals when schools are closed**	**There is very little unhealthy foods in schools**	**Children know about healthy food**	**Families feed children healthy food**
There is extra EU money to pay for this. Pick up two cards next time	**There is extra EU money to pay for this. Pick up two cards next time**	**There is extra EU money to pay for this. Pick up two cards next time**	**There is extra EU money to pay for this. Pick up two cards next time**	**There is extra EU money to pay for this. Pick up two cards next time**

For further information contact Europa@fundaciopereclosa.org or Clarkins@uclan.ac.uk