



PLAY YOUR PART.

CLASSROOM

EXPLORING RIGHT TO PLAY
Student Info Pack



**RIGHT
TOPLAY**

Canada

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ABOUT RIGHT TO PLAY

Right To Play is an organization that uses play to help children and youth learn and grow into happy, healthy adults. At Right To Play, we work with teachers, coaches, parents, community members, and kids themselves to teach important life lessons – all through fun games and activities, because we all know it is easier to learn when we're having fun!

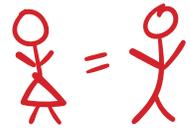
DID YOU KNOW

Play can teach us many important things! At Right To Play, we use games and play to teach kids:



- Important classroom lessons like reading & math;

- The importance of treating girls and boys equally and fairly;



- How to stay healthy and take care of ourselves so we don't get sick;



- How to work as a team and solve problems peacefully; and

- That kids have the right to learn and play while feeling safe, healthy, and happy.





IT ALL STARTED WITH A POPULAR BOY IN LONG SLEEVES...

In 1993, just a few months before the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, a young speed skater by the name of Johann Olav Koss took a break from his training to travel to Eritrea, where there had just been a long war. When he was there, he saw many kids who were very sad, because they did not have proper food, clothing or shelter. One day, he went for a walk and met a group of children, and noticed that one of them was very popular. He asked, "Why are you so popular?" and the boy replied, "Can't you see? I have long sleeves!" The boy then took off his shirt, rolled it up, and turned the shirt into a ball that they used to play in the streets! They played soccer for hours and had so much fun, but when it was time for the boy to go home, he untied his shirt, put it back on, and the game was over.



THE BOY THEN TOOK OFF HIS SHIRT, ROLLED IT UP, AND TURNED THE SHIRT INTO A BALL THAT THEY USED TO PLAY IN THE STREETS!

Johann promised the children he would come back after the Olympics with a proper ball for them to play with. He returned home to Norway, where he competed in the Olympics and won 3 gold medals! He announced he would donate his prize money for these children, so they could have the opportunity to play. The people in Norway were so inspired that they raised another 18 million dollars in a few days!

The President of Eritrea said, "This is the best gift we could have received, because we are being treated like human beings – not just something to be kept alive. For the first time, my children can play like any child." That is when Johann realized it is important for all children to have the chance to play, regardless of how much money they have or where they live, and he founded Right To Play.



AROUND THE WORLD

Right To Play works in over 20 countries around the world, including Ghana, Mozambique, Rwanda, and right here in Canada! Every week, 1 million children participate in Right To Play programs, and over 11,000 kids and youth like you have been trained as Right To Play Junior Leaders.



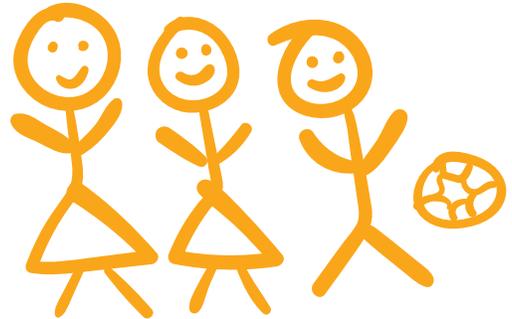
JONATHAN'S STORY – RWANDA

Jonathan is 16 years old and lives in Rubavu, a small town in Rwanda. Jonathan was not popular. He had no one to run around with, play soccer against, or even to tell jokes with. The kids in his community avoided him – Jonathan had a horrible temper and he would bully other kids.

"I don't want anyone to get close to me, especially the girls," thought Jonathan. "Girls are not as smart or as strong as boys. I don't want to talk to them."



**"I CAN'T BELIEVE THE BOYS
AND GIRLS ARE PLAYING
SOCCER TOGETHER."**



All of this left Jonathan feeling incredibly lonely. Deep down inside, **he wanted to be happy and friendly**, but he did not know how to do that.

One day while walking past his school, Jonathan noticed a group of boys and girls laughing and playing together. Everyone was smiling and having a good time.

"I want to join in," thought Jonathan. "The other kids look so happy. I can't believe the boys and girls are playing soccer together." Taking a deep breath, Jonathan walked up to the kids. "Who are you and why are the boys playing soccer with the girls?" he asked nervously.



"We are part of the Kanembwe School and **Right To Play's Gender Equality and Child Protection club**," a girl answered. "We meet every week to learn about how to include girls and boys in our games and activities, and how to work together. We do this by playing games and making up theatre sketches."



Something inside Jonathan clicked. This was what he had been looking for! Before he could lose his nerve, Jonathan asked if he could join the club ... and the soccer game. All of the kids were listening. "Of course!" they all yelled, so Jonathan joined in.

Jonathan has been a part of the Gender Equality and Child Protection club for many years, and he is happy and has many friends – both boys and girls.

Last year, the club's Coaches made Jonathan a Junior Leader. Before and after school, Jonathan helps others by openly sharing his story and by acting as a mentor for the kids living in his community. Every month, he helps the club put on a play for the whole community to watch, so that they can show them how to treat girls and boys equally.

Right To Play taught him that girls can do everything boys can do. "Now when I see a girl, I see her as my sister, as my friend," says Jonathan.

"NOW WHEN I SEE A GIRL, I SEE HER AS MY SISTER, AS MY FRIEND,"



MS. ABIGAIL'S CLASSROOM - GHANA

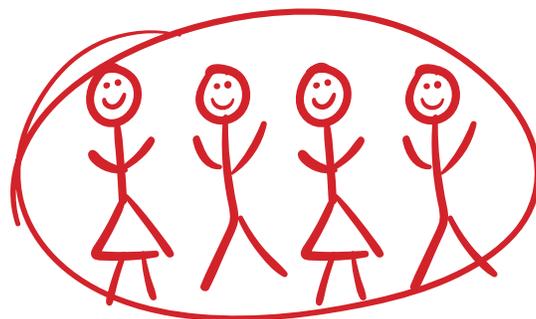


Singing and dancing is a daily ritual in Ms. Abigail Havor's Grade 1 class. That is just one of the reasons why her classroom stands out from some of the others at the Obokwashie Basic school in Ghana.

Ms. Abigail has been a teacher for four years. Last year, **Right To Play trained Ms. Abigail on how to use games and activities in her classroom.** She is now using them as learning tools, encouraging her students to participate in class and to develop to their fullest potential.

Many of the games played in the classroom require students to work in teams. "Since no student wants their team to lose, they support each other to complete tasks," explains Ms. Abigail. "**Now, boys help girls and girls help boys.** Their willingness to help any team member, no matter their age or gender, really shows they are learning teamwork."

Ms. Abigail also uses relay race games a lot, changing them to teach different school subjects. These games involve students racing to complete tasks like writing answers to math questions on the chalkboard or running to be the first to identify letters. **These games get students moving and active, improve focus, and make math and reading more fun!**



Ms. Abigail understands the power of play in and outside of her classroom, as do many of her teaching colleagues in other schools in Ghana and around the world.

CAN YOU THINK OF WAYS YOU LEARN THROUGH PLAY?