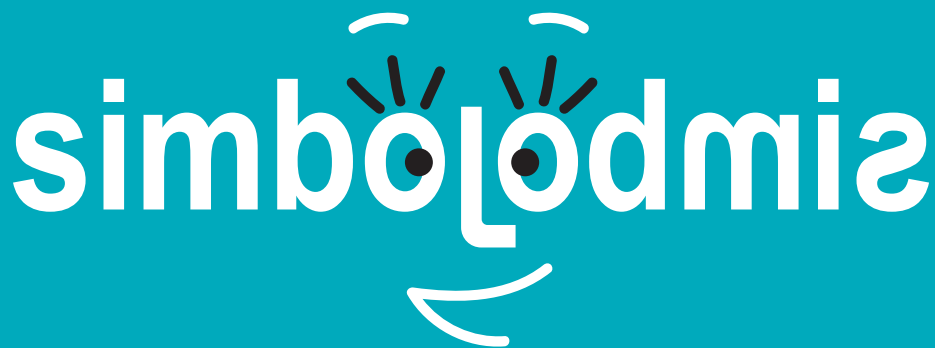


MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS

The logo for 'simbolodmia' features the brand name in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. Above the 'o's are two pairs of short, black, radiating lines, and below the text is a simple white smile. The logo is centered on a teal background.

simbolodmia



Simbolo

1

This game, Simbolo, and its accompanying handout, have been developed as part of Erasmus+ project "Promoting democracy education in everyday family life".

The main purpose of Simbolo is the discussion itself, the dialogue. By engaging in the game, players have the opportunity to exchange ideas, reflect on various topics, and develop an awareness of the significance of social and political values - in the family and in the society.

Simbolo is a game where everyone decides together how to handle the situations presented. It is important to note that reaching a consensus may not always be possible, and this is also a part of the gameplay experience.

Simbolo also contains cards with knowledge questions that not only test players' knowledge, but provide them with interesting background information.

/Game instructions/

The target audience of Simbolo is families, but the game can be played in several other groups as well (schools, groups of friends, etc..) Just replace the word "family" with "group" in your mind when you read the instructions and the cards.

Number of players: at least 3

Age of players: from 9 years

The game consists of:



24 situation cards



14 knowledge cards



4 Joker cards



40 symbol cards
10 of each symbol

Scales,
Book,
Heart,
Olive branch

You will also need: 1 coin (for flipping)



Aim of the game:

to collect at least 1 card of each of the 4 symbols. (scales, book, heart, olive branch).

The first player to get hold of one of each symbol is the winner, and the game finishes when this happens

An additional purpose of Simbolo is, of course, practicing democratic discussion!



simbolodmia

/Game preparation: /

The Knowledge cards and the Situation cards are shuffled and placed in two separate piles in the center of the table. In each pile you shuffle in 2 joker cards as well. Then shuffle the symbol cards and place them, face down, in a pile next to the other two.

Playing Simbolo:

The youngest player starts and flips a coin. Head means the player becomes a knowledge card, while Tail means the player draws a situation card.

If a knowledge card is drawn, the player reads the question out loud and tries to answer it. When necessary, a more experienced reader should help the player reading the card.

Many knowledge questions have several correct answers. A suggested answer is printed on the back of the card. The other players vote on whether the question was answered correctly. If the majority votes in favour, the player may draw and collect a symbol card. If the answer is wrong, the card is discarded.

When a situation card is drawn, the task is to democratically solve the task together with the family. Discuss the different possible solutions on the card and find the best - or find a personal way of dealing with the situation together.

The result will be voted on democratically. If there is a majority decision, the player draws a symbol card. The playing card is discarded. If you cannot find a common solution, the card is also discarded but no one gets to draw a symbol card.

If you draw a situation card that you don't want to talk/discuss, it's ok to set it aside. You might feel like talking about it next time, or there might be another opportunity to start a conversation about the topic.

If a joker is drawn from one of the two stacks, a symbol card can be drawn and collected directly without answering a question or situation. The first person to collect all four symbols wins. And the whole family won, because they gained new insights into democratic coexistence!

You can also play a version where the whole family (or group) play together as a team. You take turns flipping the coin and drawing cards, but you solve all the tasks together and collect symbols in common. The game is over when you have become at least one of each symbol.



/Handout:/

The focus of the project "FED - Promoting Democracy Education in Family Life" is on democratic education in everyday family life.

Motivated by our concern for world events, we wanted to help find a way to collectively embrace democracy. Every child has a right to experience democracy because democracy is about participation, and participation is a child's right.

The family is the place where the foundation for education is laid. Based on brain research, we know that a learning content is better internalised when it is delivered in a positive emotional state. A game that creates a pleasant atmosphere can be particularly effective in addressing complex and abstract topics. Therefore, we would like to invite and encourage you to play SIMBOLO, and through play, learn to live democracy together.

This guide provides background information, including sources for further research, on all the topics mentioned in the game.

/To do philosophy with children/

"Philosophy and democracy call upon us to exercise our judgement, to choose the best political and social organisation for ourselves, to recognize our own values, in short, to become, in a comprehensive way, what each of us truly is: a free human being."
Federico Mayor, Secretary-General of UNESCO

Source: <https://kinderphilosophie-gesellschaft.uni-graz.at/de/philosophieren-mit-kindern-und-jugendlichen/>

Philosophizing addresses individual and current socio-political questions, allowing children and young people to develop their own stance and enhance their rhetoric and argumentation skills. Philosophical conversations support children and young people in exploring their inner landscapes and discussing their experiences and opinions with others.

One technique of philosophising originates from Socrates (469 BC-399 BC): the Socratic method. Socrates guided his conversation partners to insight through targeted questions when their beliefs were contradictory or misleading. In the end, they realised this approach.

Let's consider an example: "Is theft always wrong?" You might spontaneously answer, "Of course!" In this case, one could ask further questions like the following (of course, waiting for a response each time): Always? What if the person stealing is hungry? And if



the person being stolen from is also hungry? How hungry does one have to be to justify theft? What if one steals from wealthy individuals? And so on...

Socrates adopted the position of not knowing in his dialogues and allowed himself to be (apparently) instructed by his conversation partners. Through critical questioning and drawing conclusions from the statements of others, he led them to the point where they realised they didn't actually know the answer to the original question. This realisation prompted them to reconsider the question and search for the correct (or a better) answer.

In summary, the Socratic dialogue is a method of letting one's interlocutor recognize through targeted questions that they possess only apparent knowledge or have made errors in their thinking.

Background information on the topics covered in the game:

/Equality of all genders/

Women demand equality

People are considered equal when they have the same rights. Unfortunately, throughout history, roles have been assigned to genders that felt narrow, strict and even oppressive. In the past, women were subordinate to men in many ways. They had no right to receive pensions, pursue higher education, vote, or make their own decisions. Women were expected to stay at home and take care of the household and children. They were excluded from politics and professional careers and faced discrimination. This perpetuated patriarchal systems—systems dominated, controlled, and represented by men, often neglecting the needs of women.

In many European countries, women began fighting for their equality about 150 years ago. They wanted equal educational opportunities, the right to vote and much more. Norway was the first independent country to give women the right to vote in 1913, but Finnish women got to vote already in 1906 (at the time under Russian). Thus, feminism emerged as a movement that seeks to change societal norms, roles, and the patriarchal system.

Today, everyone benefits from feminism. Progressive gender equality has partially dissolved traditional gender roles. Now, everyone can decide their own future, and all are treated with respect.

Take a moment to consider whether there are specific tasks within your family that are typically assigned to male or female family members. Why is that the case?



/Equal rights/

Everyone has equal rights.

This applies regardless of gender, sexual identity, race, religion, ethnic origin, worldview, disability, or age. It is stated in our Basic Law (constitution).

However, it has not always been this way. During colonial times, for example, people from Africa were held as slaves. They had no rights.

The path to equality has been and continues to be a centuries-long process. Women's rights activists and civil rights activists around the world have always fought for it, and they continue to do so today. Thanks to their efforts and the dedication of many individuals, there are now laws and guidelines that, among other things, prohibit slavery and aim to ensure gender equality.

Anyone who feels their right to equality has been violated can file a complaint or even take legal action.

However, full equality has not yet been achieved. In some parts of the world, women are still forced into marriage or receive lower wages than men. People are persecuted and oppressed based on their origin or religion. Although same-sex couples can marry, they often do not have the same rights as conventional married couples. These are just a few examples.

Equality remains an important topic of discussion because every person is equally valuable and should therefore have the same rights.

/Children's Rights/

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is a global framework for the protection of children. It comprises 41 articles and is the framework that has been signed by most countries worldwide.

We have summarised 10 important rights:

Equality - All children have the same rights. No child should be discriminated against.

Health - Children have the right to live in good health, find security, and not suffer from any form of hardship.

Education - Children have the right to learn and receive an education that meets their needs and abilities.

Play and Leisure - Children have the right to play, rest, and engage in artistic activities.

Freedom of expression and participation - Children have the right to participate and have a say in all matters that affect them.

Protection from violence - Children have the right to be protected from violence, abuse, and exploitation.

Access to Media - Children have the right to access information they need and express



their own opinions.

Protection of Privacy and Dignity - Children have the right to have their privacy and dignity respected.

Protection in War and Refugee Situations - Children have the right to special protection during times of war and as refugees.

Special Care and Support for Disabilities - Children with disabilities have the right to special care and support so they can actively participate in life.

Take a moment to consider what is considered natural or given in your family. Do you still think it's necessary to formulate it as a right? How are these rights implemented?

/Racism/

Racism is based on putting people down

This happens by attributing certain characteristics to them based on perceived or real cultural or physical traits. This reflects a claim of power by the majority society, which makes the affected individuals "others" and discriminates against them.

Racism has a long history and is by no means a marginal phenomenon. The justifications for racism, whether biological or cultural, may change, but the exclusionary and often violent nature remains. But how can we confront racism? Some initial steps can include:

Listening to those affected: There are plenty of explanatory videos, books, and articles where those affected speak out and/or racism is explained.

Reflecting on it: What thought patterns do I recognize in myself? What knowledge am I still lacking?

Making changes: How will I deal with it in the future? How can I change my speech and actions, expand my knowledge? How can I join like-minded individuals and bring about political change?

Just because we don't personally experience racism doesn't mean it doesn't exist. By listening, we can develop an understanding of its extent; then we can consider where our own actions, even if unintentionally, have been biased and exclusionary, and how we can avoid that in the future.

Source: Counterbunt, <https://konterbunt.de/info-zu-vorurteilen/>



/Human rights/

Human rights are primarily freedoms such as freedom of religion, freedom of expression, or equality before the law.

The right to protection and therefore the right to asylum are also enshrined in the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" by the UN. Almost all countries on Earth are members of the United Nations (UN), which means that almost all states commit to guaranteeing and protecting the rights of every individual.

This commitment arises from the Charter of the United Nations, which reaffirms the faith of peoples in the fundamental rights of human beings and in the dignity and worth of the human person.

In 1948, Eleanor Roosevelt, Chair of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, declared the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." Its purpose is to provide people all over the world with a dignified life without fear.

Almost all countries have firmly embedded human rights in their constitutions. Here are a few examples from the 30 articles of the Human Rights Charter:

Article 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person."

Article 7: "All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination."

Article 10: "Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him."

From the human rights formulated at that time, additional human rights have been derived today. For example, "women's rights are human rights." The principle of non-discrimination and gender equality is still violated in many countries.

The same applies to racism or hate speech against various population groups on the internet. Therefore, human rights must be constantly updated and upheld.

These are just a few examples. Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of assembly are now considered self-evident for many people.

How do these human rights affect your family? Which ones do you consider particularly important? Should another human right be formulated? Discuss these topics within your family circle.



/Populism/

Populists provide supposedly simple solutions to complicated issues.

Populism: What does it actually mean? Not only in Europe but also worldwide, there are increasingly more populist parties. They promise people simple solutions and portray existing problems in a black-and-white manner. They claim that their stance is based on "old values."

The word originates from the Latin "populus," meaning "people" or "nation." Populism revolves around the concerns of the people.

Populists often offer simple solutions to complex issues. They often reject the positions of institutions such as governments, banks, influential politicians, or mass media, and always advocate for a strict, simplistic opinion. The "people" are expected to be either for or against it.

Populists polarise. When someone says, "The people want this or don't want that," it is almost always a populist statement. Those who hold a different opinion are disregarded by populists. They believe they know what is good and right for everyone. The actual problem here is: What about Mr. Meier's or Ms. Ceylan's opinion? What about Lukas or Philine? In a society, especially in a democracy, there are many different viewpoints. And democracy always entails tolerance and debate, often leading to compromises.

The danger posed by populism is that complex issues are oversimplified, disregarding many different opinions and perspectives. Both right-wing populism and left-wing populism exist throughout Europe.

Have you ever encountered populist statements within your family? Take some time together to read a newspaper and identify which statements simplify complex issues, and collect counterarguments.

/Fake News/

Nowadays it is important to check the sources of information.

Fake news is a significant problem nowadays, especially due to the widespread use of social media and the internet. False or misleading information can spread quickly and easily through these platforms and have serious consequences.

One of the major spreaders of fake news is Facebook, as it is a social network that reaches a large portion of the population, particularly adults. Fake news can have



severe consequences. Based on these false pieces of information, people can make unfavourable decisions. Fake news can undermine trust in traditional news sources and create confusion about what is true and what is not. Furthermore, the spread of false information can contribute to the polarisation of society and create divisions among people with different beliefs and perspectives.

Here are some tips on how you can address fake news within your family:

1. Inform all family members about the dangers of fake news and how to recognize them.
2. Recognize the importance of fact-checking and verifying sources before sharing information.
3. Engage in critical thinking together about the news you hear.
4. Discuss current events with family members.
5. Report fake news when you identify it.

/Freedom of religion/

Religious freedom is the right of individuals and groups to practise their religion without interference or persecution, e.g. by the government.

It is a fundamental human right recognized in many international conventions and treaties, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Freedom of religion encompasses the right to:

- Have any religion or no religion at all.
- Practise any religion individually or in community with others.
- Express and manifest one's beliefs through teaching, practice, worship, and observance of rituals.
- Share religious beliefs with others.
- Establish and maintain places of worship such as churches, mosques, synagogues, or temples.
- Wear religious attire and symbols (such as head scarves or crosses).
- Choose or change one's religion or belief without fear of persecution or discrimination.

Freedom of religion is essential for a free and democratic society as it allows individuals to live according to their own beliefs and values and peacefully coexist with others who may hold different beliefs.

You can practise this within your family every day by respecting the religious beliefs of each family member, promoting open communication, avoiding imposing your beliefs on others, and fostering tolerance and respect.



/Freedom of speech/

Freedom of expression is one of the most valuable human rights.

Every person has the right to express their opinions and ideas and to disseminate information in any form. Without freedom of expression, a society cannot be democratic. It enables members of a society to form their own opinions on matters of public importance. It serves the purpose of public debate and supports the establishment of free and independent media, an informed citizenry, and transparent functioning of the state. Freedom of expression includes:

- Spaces (public and private)
- Objectives (political, artistic, commercial)
- Forms (words, images, sounds)
- Media (films, comics, radio, television, and social media)

For example, one can write a comment under an article on an internet portal, play or perform a specific song in a public place, display an advertisement on the street, or wear a T-shirt conveying a particular message.

However, the right to freedom of expression does not guarantee access to the means necessary for expressing one's ideas. A magazine or an internet portal may refuse to publish an article or comment. A company that owns a social media website may remove a comment from the platform it manages.

Freedom of expression does not protect every form of expression absolutely. For instance, hate speech is not protected by the right to freedom of expression and is punishable by law.

/Freedom of the press/

Freedom of the press is a democratic principle.

The Basic Law guarantees all media the freedom to publish their opinions and report on whatever they want. Media includes newspapers and magazines, the internet, television, and radio. This freedom is called press freedom.

Press freedom applies to all people, including children, as it ensures the freedom of information, free formation and expression of opinions, pluralistic diversity of opinions, democratic formation of the will, as well as transparency and control of politics through public opinion.

Press freedom ensures that all journalists can freely express their opinions in speech



and writing. Freedom of expression grants the media special rights, but also responsibilities. They have the task of informing the public about matters of public interest, thereby creating an important platform for public debate, scrutiny, and reflection. Therefore, independent media and quality journalism are considered the "watchdog" in a democratic society.

Press freedom is a principle that considers communication and expression of opinions through various media as a freely exercisable right. This freedom presupposes non-interference by the state and guarantees its protection through constitutional or other legal safeguards.



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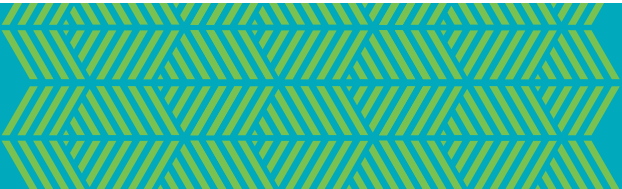


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/Notes/

Lined writing area consisting of 20 horizontal blue lines.



A series of horizontal blue lines for writing.



