

# Are You Old Enough?

## Student Workbook

Name: \_\_\_\_\_





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## Summary of the Activity

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This workbook presents the different responsibilities, freedoms and protections that you already have or will have in the future, depending on your age. Exercises and scenarios invite you to reflect on what could happen to you, make hypotheses on the right that applies, and then discover what the law stipulates.

## Prior Knowledge

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Do you know any of the responsibilities, freedoms and protections that apply to children? As of what age do they apply? Write down one or more examples.

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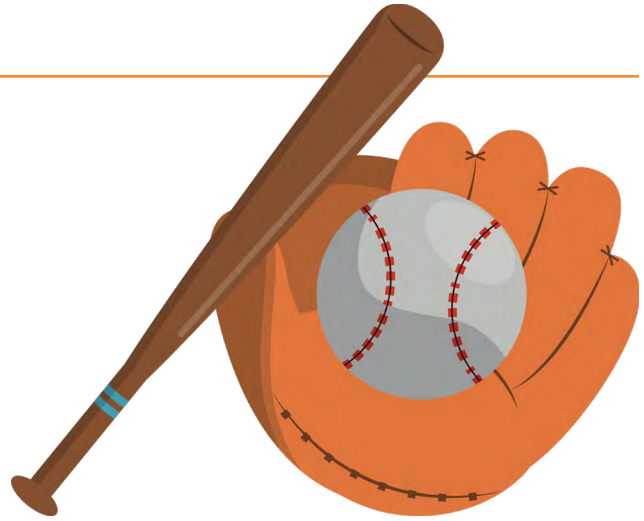
# Responsibilities

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## Scenario 1 The Broken Window

Romeo, 12 years old, breaks his neighbour's window while playing baseball. The neighbour demands that he be reimbursed for his new window.

Who will pay to replace the window?



**Hypothesis:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Research on the Éducaloi website:** Article, "[Legal Responsibility of Parents](#)"

**What the law says:**

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## Civil Liability

Around \_\_\_\_\_ years of age, children can be held responsible for the damage they cause. Example: A 12-year-old could be sued if they break or damage property that doesn't belong to them.

## Scenario 2

### A Very Bad Day

Martina, 13 years old, is having a very bad day at school. She's really at the end of her rope. After school, Xing Yan makes fun of her. Martina explodes and punches her in the face, breaking her nose. Xing Yan's parents are furious.

What can Xing Yan's parents do in this situation?



**Hypothesis:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Research on the Éducaloi website:** Article, "[Teens Accused of Crimes: Possible Outcomes.](#)"

**What the law says:**

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### Criminal Responsibility

As of \_\_\_\_\_ years of age, children can be charged with a crime. Example: theft, physical assault or sexual assault, drug possession or drug dealing, etc.

## Scenario 3

### The Red Light

Lara, 14 years old, is walking to school. She realizes she might be late. There are no cars coming so she decides to run across the street against a red light. She's stopped by the police.

What are the possible consequences for Lara?

**Hypothesis:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Research on the Éducaloi website:** Article, "[Teenagers: Tickets and Fines](#)"

**What the law says:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## A Fine

A document that the police give to someone who violated a regulation or a law. A fine is also called a "ticket." It indicates the amount to pay for violating a rule. Children can be fined as of \_\_\_\_\_ years of age.



**Fine:** A document that the police give to someone who violated a regulation or a law.

## Age of Majority

When someone reaches the age of majority, they have all the possible responsibilities and freedoms of an adult. The age of majority is \_\_\_\_\_.



**Majority:** The legal age at which a person is considered an adult under the law.

## Summary

Complete the missing terms under the following images:



Around age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ liability



At age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ responsibility



At age \_\_\_\_\_

Receive a



At age \_\_\_\_\_

# Freedoms

## Scenario 4 – First Love

Mallory is 14 years old and madly in love with her neighbour, Antoine, who's 18. They've been dating for a few weeks. Recently, Antoine suggested that Mallory sleep over at his place because his parents will be away for two weeks for work. When Mallory's parents learn of the relationship, they strongly disapprove—Mallory is too young to go out with an 18-year-old and to sleep over at his place! Can Mallory and Antoine go ahead and do what they want anyway?



**Hypothesis:**

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**Research on the Éducaloi website:** Article, "[Sexual Consent of Teenagers](#)"

**What the law says:**

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## Consent

Consent is a very broad concept that applies to many situations. For example, a person can consent to health care or to engaging in sexual touching (kissing, caressing or sexual relations) with someone else.



**Consent:** Agreement given by a person to an action or a plan.

Teens can consent to sexual activities with other teens of approximately the same age as of age \_\_\_\_\_.  
As of age \_\_\_\_\_, sexual consent is possible, regardless of the age difference between the partners.

## Scenario 5 – A New Name

Gabriel Hilal is 15 years old and wants to change his name to Ronaldo Hilal. He's always dreamed of having the same first name as his favourite soccer player!

Does he have the right to do this?

**Hypothesis:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Research on the Éducaloi website:** Article, "[Changing Your Name](#)"

**What the law says:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Consent to care

As of \_\_\_\_\_ years of age, a minor can consent on their own to care essential to their state of health. Examples: receiving a blood transfusion, having a medical procedure, like an abortion, etc.

If the young person spends more than 12 hours in a health or social services facility, the parents will be informed.

If care not essential to their state of health poses a serious risk to their health or could have serious and permanent effects, the parents' consent is required. For example: cosmetic surgery.

## Driving

As of \_\_\_\_\_ years of age, a person can start driving if they get their licence. As a driver, they must follow the rules in the *Highway Safety Code*, as must anyone on a bicycle or walking along a public road.

## Summary

Complete the missing terms under the following images:



At age \_\_\_\_\_

Sexual consent  
with other  
\_\_\_\_\_



At age \_\_\_\_\_

Consent to  
\_\_\_\_\_



At age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



At age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Protections

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There are several laws that protect children, such as the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *Youth Protection Act*.

## Convention on the Rights of the Child

This convention is an international document dating back to 1989. It sets out more than 50 rights that must be respected for all children around the world. More than 195 countries have signed the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, including Canada.

To learn more, see the article by Unicef Canada, “The Convention on the Rights of the Child in Child-Friendly Language.”

## Youth Protection Act

This law protects minors (under 18 years of age). It enables the Director of Youth Protection (DYP) to intervene when a child’s security or development is in danger.

Anyone can report a problematic situation involving a child to the Director of Youth Protection.



## Scenario 6

### Agonizing Choice

Amber is 15 years old and her parents are separating. Her mother wants to move to Saint-Jérôme. She'd like Amber to stay with her every second week, but her father would prefer she spend as much time as possible with him in Longueuil, close to her best friends and cousins. Amber would prefer to stay in Longueuil.

Who will decide where Amber lives?  
Where will she live?



**Hypothesis:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Research on the Éducaloi website:** Article, "[Choosing Which Parent to Live With.](#)"

**What the law says:**

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## Scenario 7 – A Friend’s Distress

You notice that your classmate, Giovane, is increasingly unhappy since her mother’s new boyfriend moved in with them. The weeks when Giovane is with her mother, she never seems to want to go home. She’s always been well behaved but now she goes out of her way to get detentions after school so that her mother has to come pick her up! You’ve also noticed that her new stepfather always wants to be alone with Giovane. He’s even told you to go home shortly after her mother leaves the house, even though you were there to hang out with Giovane. You’re worried about your friend.

What can you do?

**Hypothesis:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



**Research on the Éducaloi website:** Articles, “[How to Report a Situation to the DYP \(Director of Youth Protection\)](#)” and “[The Role of the Director of Youth Protection \(DYP\)](#).”

**What the law says:**

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## Summary

Complete the following statements describing different protections set out for children.

- The **Youth Protection Act** protects \_\_\_\_\_ (under 18 years of age). It enables the Director of Youth Protection (DYP) to intervene when a child's \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ is in danger.
- The **Education Act** states that all children in Quebec are required to go to school from age 6 to \_\_\_\_\_. All children must be treated \_\_\_\_\_ at school.
- The **Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms** protects all Quebecers, \_\_\_\_\_ and adults alike. Among other things, it guarantees the right to life and \_\_\_\_\_, freedom of \_\_\_\_\_, and protection from \_\_\_\_\_.
- The **Convention on the Rights of the Child** was signed by many countries, including \_\_\_\_\_. It sets out the principles upon which to act in the best \_\_\_\_\_ of children.



# Hypothesis Game

For each situation, make a hypothesis on the age at which the law or regulations apply. Then, enter the correct answer provided by your teacher.

| Situations                                                                                                        | Hypothesis of age | Correct answer |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1) I can get a criminal record.<br><br>_____<br><br>_____<br><br>_____<br><br>_____<br><br>_____                  |                   |                |
| 2) I can get married.<br><br>_____<br><br>_____<br><br>_____<br><br>_____<br><br>_____                            |                   |                |
| 3) I could be fined if I don't wear my seatbelt.<br><br>_____<br><br>_____<br><br>_____<br><br>_____<br><br>_____ |                   |                |



| Situations                                                                              | Hypothesis of age | Correct answer |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 4) I can give my own consent for a tattoo.<br><hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |                   |                |
| 5) I can ride an e-bike.<br><hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>                   |                   |                |



## Review Exercise: True or False?

For each statement, choose true or false.

| Statement                                                                                                                           | True | False |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
| 1) A parent can be held responsible for damage caused by their child.<br><br><hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>                          |      |       |
| 2) A person can be held responsible for damage caused to their neighbour's fence by their dog.<br><br><hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |      |       |
| 3) The parent of a 13-year-old child who doesn't wear their seatbelt in the car can be fined.<br><br><hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>  |      |       |



| Statement                                                                                                                                                                                                              | True | False |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
| 4) It's impossible to lose demerit points before obtaining a driver's licence. For example, if you're a passenger in a car and the police stop you for not wearing your seatbelt.<br><br><hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |      |       |
| 5) A cyclist who fails to respect a traffic light will lose points on their driver's licence.<br><br><hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>                                                                                     |      |       |
| 6) Someone riding an e-bike without a helmet can be fined.<br><br><hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>                                                                                                                        |      |       |
| 7) A 16-year-old who engages in sexual touching with a 13-year-old can be charged with sexual assault.<br><br><hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>                                                                            |      |       |



| Statement                                                                                                            | True | False |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
| 8) A 15-year-old can engage in sexual touching with their 18-year-old volleyball coach if they're both in agreement. |      |       |
|                                                                                                                      |      |       |
|                                                                                                                      |      |       |
|                                                                                                                      |      |       |
|                                                                                                                      |      |       |
|                                                                                                                      |      |       |

## Conclusion

- 1) Which responsibility or freedom are you most looking forward to obtaining? Why? How old will you be when you obtain it?

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- 2) Which protection do you consider the most important? Why?

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- 3) Which scenario surprised you the most? Why?

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