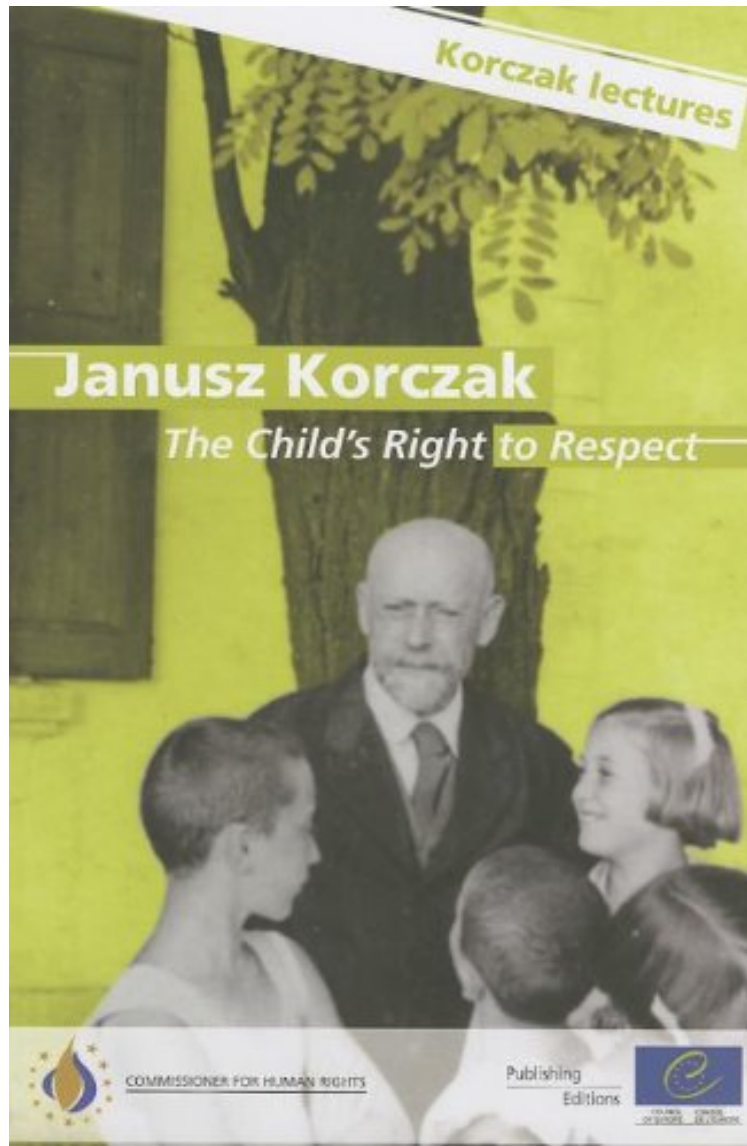


(Ebook free) Janusz Korczak: The Child's Right to Respect: Janusz Korczak's Legacy: Lectures on Today's Challenges for Children (Korczak Lectures)

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Lectures on Today's Challenges for Children (Korczak Lectures):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Child's Right to Respect Is Still Relevant By Daniel L. Berek "We learn very early in life that big is more important than little," observed Janusz Korczak in opening his classic treatise, *The Child's Right to Respect*. Korczak, a Polish pediatrician, educator, writer, and founder and director of orphanages, was aware of the plight of children even when he, himself, was a child, and carried this memory into adulthood for the rest of his life. He went on at length to explain how adults used their power to control children, never taking into account their feelings, lacking confidence in their ability to reason, make decisions, and accomplish noble deeds. The relationship between adults and children has nearly always been characterized as resentment and distrust. Toward the end of this groundbreaking essay, Korczak stated that although many adults feel that the world would be much more convenient without children, "they are and they will be.... Children account for a large proportion of mankind, a sizeable portion of the population, of the nation, residents, citizens - constant companions. Children have been, are, and they will be. He then defined the title of the essay, what exactly is the child's right to respect. Children have a right to be understood. They have a right to learn, to have their efforts recognized and be forgiven for mistakes. A right to responsibility. They have a right to their possessions. In other words, children have the right to be themselves, to have and state their feelings and opinions - and for these to be taken seriously by adults. They have a right to a safe, loving home, caring teachers. Yet, "politicians and law makers ... deliberate and make decisions about the child, too; but who asks the child for his opinion and consent; what can he possibly have to say?" In this volume, five children's rights activists analyze current problems in the spirit of Janusz Korczak, the man who originated the idea that children also have rights. They are as follows: * "How to Protect the Child's Best Interests?" Emily Logan, Ombudsman for Children of Ireland starts out with "best interests" principle, which is the underlying theme of Korczak's writings and became the basis for the 1959 UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child and 1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The traditional welfare approach, by contrast "considers children as having inherent value," but does not consider them as people with rights. Most important, children need to have the right to participate and be listened to when adults make policies and other decisions that affect children. * "Respect Means Stopping Hitting Children Today - Not Tomorrow or the Day After" Inspired by Korczak's philosophy that children are not merely the people of tomorrow, but people today, Peter Newell discusses efforts to end all forms of corporal punishment in countries worldwide, including Korczak's native Poland. * "Children and Prisons" Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, discusses both the imprisonment of children and how the imprisonment of adults affects their offspring, calling on treatment rather than taking away children's liberty and dignity. In addition to Korczak, Jane Addams advocated for justice to children. * "Children in Out-of-Home Care" Marina Gordeeva, Chief of the Board of the Russian Children in Need Fund, draws upon the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which closely follows Korczak's philosophy in *How to Love a Child* and *The Child's Right to Respect* - namely that children have a right to an identity and to be cared for and loved in a safe home. She discusses the orphanages in her native Russia. * "Children Have the Right to Be Heard and Adults Should Listen to Their Views" Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights discusses what he believes to be Korczak's main message, that "rights and democracy for children requires attitude changes among adults," which - he points out - is the underlying philosophy of Article 12 of the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. That children have a right to an opinion and for that opinion to be taken seriously by adults is explored in the contexts of the family, schools, the media, non-governmental organizations, political bodies. What this book makes clear is that Korczak's message is as relevant today as it was when he first set pen to paper. *When I Am Little Again* and *The Child's Right to Respect*