UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

In Child Friendly Language

“Rights” are things every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Almost every country has agreed to these rights. All the rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important. Sometimes, we have to think about rights in terms of what is the best for children in a situation, and what is critical to life and protection from harm. As you grow, you have more responsibility to make choices and exercise your rights.

Article 1
Everyone under 18 has these rights.

Article 2
Children have the rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

Article 3
All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they think about how their decisions will affect children.

Article 4
The government has a responsibility to make sure your rights are protected. They must help your family to protect your rights and create an environment where you can grow and reach your potential.

Article 5
Your family has the responsibility to help you learn to exercise your rights, and to ensure that your rights are protected.

Article 6
You have the right to be alive.

Article 7
You have the right to a name, and this should be recorded on an official record of who you are. No one should take this away from you.

Article 8
You have the right to a nationality (to belong to a country), as well as all the rights in this Convention.

Article 9
Everyone under 18 has these rights.

Article 10
You have the right to be with your family if possible.

Article 11
You have the right to be protected from being hurt and neglected, in body or mind.

Article 12
You have the right to protect your information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspapers, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

Article 13
You have the right to find out things and share your thoughts with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.

Article 14
You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.

Article 15
You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn’t harmful to others.

Article 16
You have the right to privacy.

Article 17
You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspapers, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

Article 18
You have the right to be raised by your parents if possible.

Article 19
You have the right to special care and help if you cannot live with your parents.

Article 20
You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care.

Article 21
You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this Convention.

Article 22
You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can live a full life.

Article 23
You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well.

Article 24
If you live in care or in other situations away from home, you have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are the most appropriate.

Article 25
You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.

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Article 27
You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. You should not be discouraged as to what you can’t do the things other kids can do.

Article 28
You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

Article 29
Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Article 30
You have the right to participate in your own culture, language and religion - or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

Article 31
You have the right to play and rest.

Article 32
You have the right to protection from work that harms you, and is bad for your health and education. If you work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly.

Article 33
You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and from the drug trade.

Article 34
You have the right to protection from sexual abuse. Article 35 No one is allowed to kidnap or sell or adopt children (or other children). Article 36 No one is allowed to take advantage of any child in order to sell or adopt children. Article 37 No one is allowed to take advantage of any child in order to sell or adopt children.

Article 38
You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and from the drug trade.

Article 39
You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and from the drug trade.

Article 40
You have the right to legal help and fair treatment in the justice system that respects your rights.

Article 41
If the laws of your country provide better protection of your rights than the articles in this Convention, those laws should apply.

Article 42
You have the right to know your rights! Adults should know about these rights and work to ensure children are protected with their rights.

Article 43 to 54
These articles explain how governments and international organizations like UNICEF will work to ensure children are protected with their rights.