



A South Africa fit for children 2012-2017

A child-friendly version of
the National Plan of Action
for Children (NPAC) for the
children of South Africa



women, children &
people with disabilities

Department:
Women, Children and People with Disabilities
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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This special version of the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) was conceptualised and written by André Viviers (UNICEF) and Sinah Moruane (Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities)

Acknowledgements

The Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities wishes to acknowledge the following parties for their contribution in the development of the National Plan of Action for Children in South Africa (NPAC):

- All government departments that provided inputs into this NPAC during the past nine months.
- Experts in the child rights field that assisted with the review of the Discussion Document of the NPAC in May 2012.
- Children who provided some insights and inputs into the NPAC.
- Civil society for their contributions.

The Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities expresses a special word of appreciation to UNICEF South Africa for technical support provided throughout the process of development and reviewing of the National Plan of Action for Children 2012–2017, as well as this child-friendly version.

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Text: André Viviers and Sinah Moruane

Illustrations: Adele Joubert (adele.jbrt@gmail.com)

Text on child rights and responsibilities partly adapted from the National Children's Rights Committee (1997) and UNICEF (2009)



A South Africa fit for children 2012-2017

A child-friendly version of the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) for the children of South Africa.

This book was written for children aged 6 to 14 years. Younger children can also benefit from it if the adult (or older child) who reads it to them simplifies the concepts and explains some parts.

Foreword

To the children of South Africa



The Government of South Africa wrote a special plan that will help to make sure that the rights of all children are protected and implemented. It does not matter whether you live in a city, a township, village or farm. This plan is for *all* children. It does not matter whether you are a baby, in primary school, a teenager, a child with a disability, a girl or a boy. It's for you!

This book gives a special summary that explains to children what the most important things are what we cover in this *National Plan of Action for Children*. We want to make sure that all children are healthy; are able to learn; feel safe and protected; can play and have fun; are included in all activities; and participate in matters affecting them.

Join me and all the other children in the country on this train ride! We can learn and work together in realising the rights of South Africa's children. We will also learn about the rights and responsibilities that go with them.

Putting children first

Ms Veliswa Baduza

Director-General Department of Women, Children and Persons with Disability

Meet your new friends

Hi there kids.

My name is *Thandi* and I am going to tell you more about South Africa's special plan just for children. I have a few friends to help me!



Hi everyone!

My name is *Kobus* and I am *Thandi's* friend. I will help her to tell you more about our country's special plan for kids.



Hi boys and girls.

I am *Ravi* and will help *Thandi* and *Kobus* to tell you more about the National Plan of Action for Children.



Hi all.

I am *RIGHTS*. I will tell you more about children's rights, while we all learn about the National Plan of Action for Children.



Hi friends.

My name is *Fatima*. I will also help you to better understand the National Plan of Action for Children.




Hello there.

I am *Barney Bug* and I will help you with difficult words. Also look at the back of this book for some more explanations. If there are any other words you do not understand, ask your teacher or look them up in the dictionary.





What is the National Plan of Action for Children?




The *National Plan of Action for Children* is a specific plan that was made for all the children in the country. It tells us what needs to be done for children in South Africa from 2012 to 2017. We can call it the NPAC for short.


The NPAC brings together all the promises that the *government* has made to ensure that children's rights are protected and *implemented*.




The NPAC tells you step-by-step the things that need to be done to ensure that children are healthy, protected, feel safe, are well taken care of, educated and able to take part in matters important to them.



The NPAC makes sure that the government takes its duties seriously and attends to the rights of all children in the country. The plan is based on the responsibilities of the different parts of government to ensure that children's rights are protected, promoted and *fulfilled*.



Government is a group of people who have the power to make laws and who have the responsibility to put laws into action and deliver services to the country's people. *Fulfilled* means that something is achieved. *Implemented* means the different actions that need to be taken for things to happen in the right way.



The NPAC gives information on what needs to happen to make sure that the rights of children are *implemented*, who is responsible for these rights and by when (the date actions need to be completed).

The special NPAC Train ride




Join us on a special train ride that will help to explain the National Plan of Action for Children to you!

Great idea Kobus!
We can call it the NPAC Train!
And in each cart of the train we will discover a different part of the NPAC.
It is going to be fun!

But first tell us how the government developed the NPAC?




How was the NPAC developed?




The government first looked at all the important documents that tell us about the rights of children. They are written on this blackboard.

- 
1. South Africa's Constitution
 2. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
 3. African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
 4. National Development Plan
 5. All laws in South Africa that talk about children



Yes, and then the government asked a lot of people, including children, what they think should be in the NPAC.



And then they started to write the National Plan of Action for Children, for the period 2012 to 2017.

What is inside the NPAC?

This is our NPAC Train.
It is very bright and
colourful!

Kobus, Thandi and I will
explain to you what is in each
cart to help you learn what the
NPAC is all about.
Are you ready?

Oh yes Thandi. The NPAC
Train has five carts. Each cart
represents a part of the NPAC.
You can see these written on
the side of each cart.

Children are
safe, protected
and cared for

Children
grow, learn
and
develop

Healthy
children

National Plan
of Action
for Children

Children are
listened
to

Thanks. This will help children
have access to the information on
the plan that is there for
them. Access to information is
an important right that
everybody has.

rights

What is inside the first NPAC Train cart?



The first cart of the NPAC Train is about healthy children. There are parcels in the cart. Each parcel tells you about the special promise that the NPAC makes to the children in our country.

Healthy children



All children have the right to health. This includes the right to have enough and healthy food to eat and to get special care when they are ill. You will see that the first cart has some parcels in it that will make sure that children receive these rights.

Healthy children

Look! Every parcel tells us what the NPAC will do to make sure that children are healthy.



Hey Barney!
I see you have a few
new words for us
to learn.




HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. It stops the body from protecting itself against germs and illnesses.


Breast milk is the special milk that mothers produce after a baby is born and it is very good for babies.




Know your rights to health



Girls and boys,
let's read about your right to
health. Remember that along with
your rights, you also have
responsibilities.



Children have the right to
good health care...
and they have the responsibility to
take good care of themselves.



Children have the right to be
well fed...
and they have the responsibility
not to waste food.

What is inside the second NPAC Train cart?



The second cart of the NPAC Train is about making sure that children grow, learn and develop. The parcels inside this cart tell us about another special promise that the NPAC brings to the children in the country.

Children
grow,
learn and
develop

All children have the right to learn and develop. This includes the rights of babies and young children to receive all they need to grow, the right to good education, the right to play, the right to a clean environment, and many more rights. In this cart you will see some parcels that make sure that children receive these rights.



Children grow, learn and develop

Wow! There are nine parcels in this cart. Each parcel tells us what the NPAC will do to make sure children learn and develop.



Hey Barney!
I see you have few new words for us to learn.

Quality education for all children

Children play and participate in sport

Children with disabilities are included and can take part

Teenagers receive services that help with their development

Children know their culture and heritage, and respect others' culture

Children have an environment that is clean and safe

Children have parents, family members and caregivers that take care of them

Girls and boys are treated the same and have the same opportunities


Babies and young children have the best start in life

Quality is when something is good and useful.

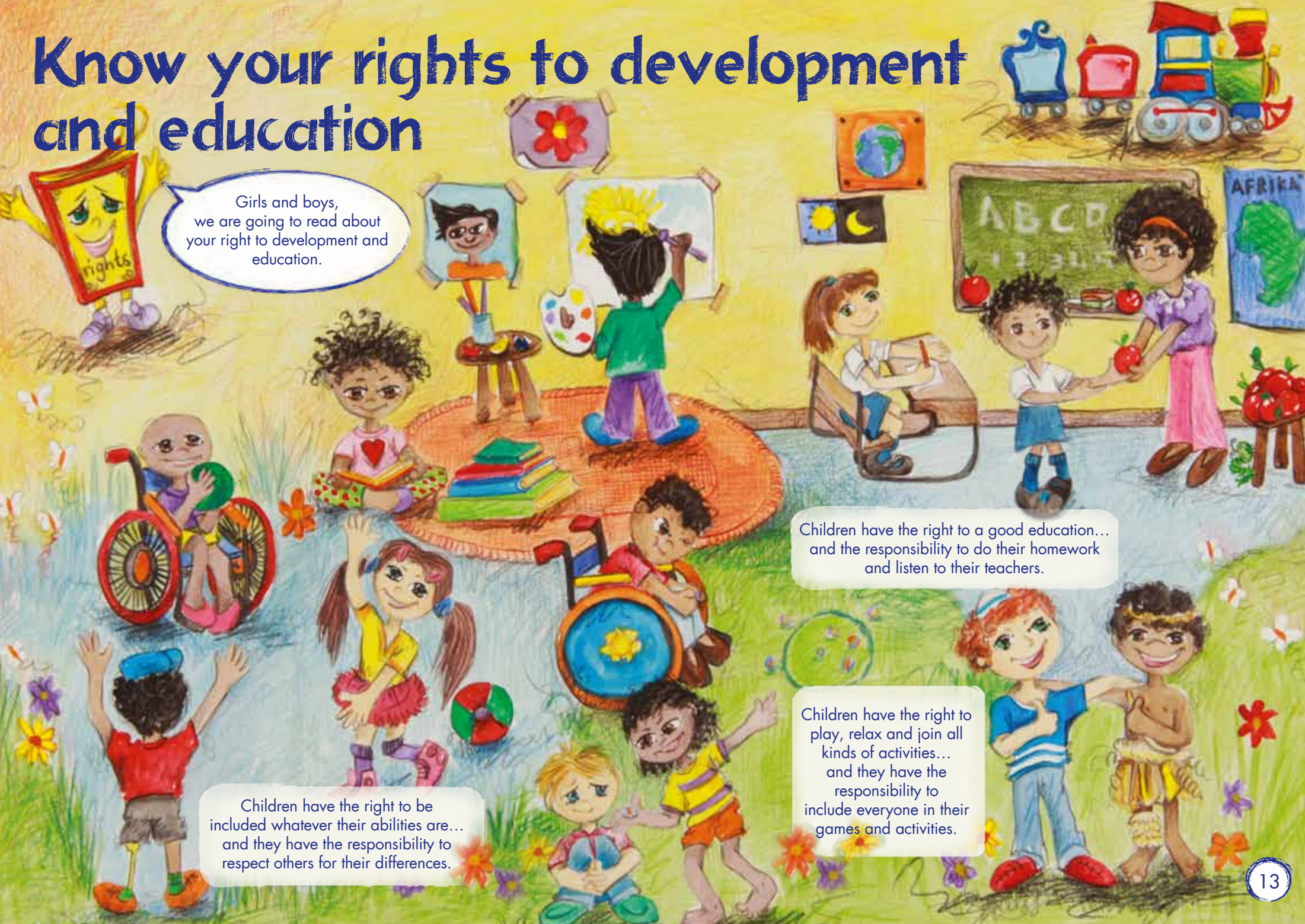
Children with disabilities... see description on page 24.



Know your rights to development and education



Girls and boys,
we are going to read about
your right to development and
education.



Children have the right to a good education...
and the responsibility to do their homework
and listen to their teachers.

Children have the right to be
included whatever their abilities are...
and they have the responsibility to
respect others for their differences.

Children have the right to
play, relax and join all
kinds of activities...
and they have the
responsibility to
include everyone in their
games and activities.

What is inside the third NPAC Train cart?



The third cart is how to make sure that all children in our country are *safe* and feel *protected*.

You will see it carries lots of parcels, as there are many things in the NPAC to make sure that you are safe, protected and cared for.

**Children
are safe,
protected and
cared for**

Our Constitution promises that all children have the right to be safe, protected and cared for.

This includes the right to be protected from abuse; the right to have your birth registered (name and nationality); the right to be treated separately from adults if you are in trouble with the law; and the right to care and protection when you do not have any parents.



Children are safe, protected and cared for

I can count 12 parcels in the third cart. These are some of the things in the NPAC that will make sure that children are safe and protected.

Hey Barney!
Are there any new words for us to learn?

No sexual abuse of children

Protect all children from abuse

Unaccompanied and refugee children receive care and protection

Children in foster care receive care and support

Children in trouble with the law are treated fairly and correctly

Stop child labour

Every child's birth is registered

Special care and protection for children living and working on the streets

Special care for children living in child-headed households

Hitting children is wrong

Children are protected from drugs and alcohol

Special care for children who are orphans

Unaccompanied means without an adult taking responsibility for a child.

Refugee is someone who had to flee from his or her country.

Child labour is when children do work that they are not supposed to do.

Foster care is when the court lets children stay with someone else and not their parents.

Orphans are children whose parents have died.

Child-headed household is a home where children younger than 18 years live together without adults.

Children from

and they have the responsibility not to bully or harm others.



What is inside the fourth NPAC Train cart?



This is the fourth cart.
I wonder how many parcels
it will carry on your rights to
housing, water, food and other
important things that we need
to live well?

Children
live in
houses, and
have water
and food

All children have the
right to a certain way
of living: we call it a
standard of living. It
includes the right to
housing; the right to
clean water; the right
to a clean environment;
the right to a grant
if they are poor, to
mention a few.
Let's see what is in this
cart and is also part of
the NPAC.



Children live in houses, and have water and food

There are six big parcels
in this cart. They cover the
important things that the NPAC
will be working on to make the
lives of all children better.

No child lives
in poverty

Children
have clean
toilets

All children that
need it receive the
Child Support
Grant

Children have
clean water
to drink

Children with
severe disabilities
receive a special
grant (Care
Dependency Grant)

Children live
in safe
houses

Look, Barney found
a few new words
for us.

Child Support Grant
is money that the
government gives every
month to help children
who are poor.

Severe also means
serious.

Poverty is when
people do not have
enough money to buy
food, clothes or other
important things that
they need.

Know your rights to a standard of living



Girls and boys, this part is about your right to housing, water and food. What does this right mean?

Children have the right to a clean environment... and they have the responsibility not to litter and to keep it clean.

Children have the right to a safe and comfortable home... and they have the responsibility to keep it clean and tidy.



What is inside the fifth NPAC Train cart?



We are now looking at the last cart of the NPAC Train. This cart deals with another important right of children – the right to participate in matters affecting them. It also looks at other important rights that are close to the right to participate.



**Children
are
listened to**



Children have the right to participate in matters affecting them (and most things in life affect children). Children also have the right to have access to information in a way they can understand it; the right of freedom of expression and thought; and the right of freedom of association.

Children are listened to



Six parcels! These are the important rights of participation and access to information for children.



Barney, help us to understand a few words.



Association is when people come together for different reasons.

Thought is something you think.

Expression is a way to give a message. It can be in words, in writing, in art or in actions.


Citizen means to be part of the country.

Access to information means that important things that you need to know are presented in a language and a way that you understand.


Know your rights to participation



Girls and boys, what does the right to participation mean?



Children have the right to freedom of thought and religion... and they have the responsibility to respect the thoughts and religions of others.



Children have the right to be listened to and taken seriously... and they have the responsibility to listen to other's views and ideas.

Join us on the NPAC Train ride



It is wonderful to see how the government plans to make sure that all children have their rights.

Children's lives will get better with every day of this journey.



Thanks everyone. Our NPAC Train is packed and all the carts are full.

Wonderful. This train is going on a long journey to make children's lives better in South Africa.

Yes, its journey will only end in 2017.



Children, watch out for the NPAC Train and learn about rights and responsibilities everyday.



Some more explanations of words used in this book

Laws: rules made by the government and which everybody should follow.

Rights: those things that every child should be able to do or should have for their survival, protection, development and participation.

Responsibility: is a duty or task that you are required or expected to do.

Child: anyone younger than 18 years.

Children with disabilities: All children are different, but this is what makes children so interesting. Some are tall, some are small, some have blue eyes, some have brown eyes, some have disabilities, and children speak all different kinds of languages. Children with disabilities are children like all other children, but they do things a bit differently. A child who cannot see, for example, will read by feeling dotted letters called braille. A child who cannot hear or speak, uses his hands to sign the words and sentences. Some children move around with crutches, special shoes or wheelchairs, as it is difficult for them to walk and run. Some children take a bit longer to understand, but if we give them time and use simple language, they can learn and do things with other children. If we remember that each one of us is different, we will all find different ways of playing together. It is important for us to find places to play where wheelchairs can move around easily. If we all learn to use our hands when we speak, we can understand each other. If we help each other to understand the rules of games that we play and explain to everybody what is happening around us, especially to those children who cannot see, we can all play, learn and live together.

National Development Plan: a plan that tells us what government plans to do until the year 2030 to decrease poverty, create more jobs for people, improve the education for children, make health care services better for everybody and how our communities can be safe places for all to live in..

South African Constitution: the highest or most important law of the country. It provides information on how the country is organised and includes the rights and responsibilities of all who live in the country.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: is an agreement that lists all the rights that children have in all parts of the world. South Africa decided to agree to the Convention on 16 June 1995, which means that the government should make sure that every child has all the rights in the Convention.

African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child: is an agreement that lists all the rights that children have in all parts of Africa. South Africa decided to agree to the Charter on 7 January 2000, which means that the government should make sure that every child has all the rights in the Charter.

Child abuse: any kind of harm done to children, including neglect, physical, sexual or mental violence by someone who is responsible for them, or has power or control over them, who they should be able to trust.



If you want more information on child rights and the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) write to:

By mail (in an envelope) addressed to:

Ms Sinah Moruane

*Department of Women, Children and
People with Disabilities*

Private Bag X 931, Pretoria, 0001

By email: sinah@dwcpd.gov.za

By SMS: 082 803 3018

You can also visit the following websites:

www.dwcpd.gov.za

www.unicef.org/southafrica

Put Children First!



“Our children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation. They will be the leaders of our country, the creators of our national wealth, those who care for and protect our people.”

Nelson Mandela (3 June 1995)

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