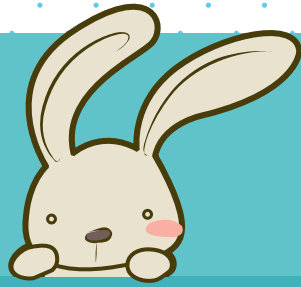


Foreword



In Singapore, children have a special place in our hearts. We believe that children should be happy and grow up in a nurturing environment, valued as individuals and as members of the family and society. It is our hope that they will grow up strong, healthy and confident, but yet imbued with humility to be able to understand and serve the less fortunate. We want them to become adults with a sense of pride and belonging to their community, to have strong ties with their families and a sense of awareness that they are global citizens.

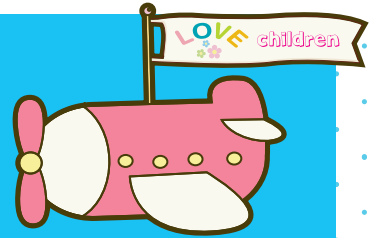
To do so, we need to recognise that children are particularly vulnerable and need special care and attention at various stages of development—they rely on adults to meet their basic needs, for protection from harm and abuse, and to access opportunities to grow and fulfil their potential. It is therefore the responsibility of the society to recognize their rights and give children a conducive environment to grow.

This book serves as a tool to help children understand their rights and responsibilities to one another. The articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are presented in a child-friendly manner with colourful illustrations. We encourage every parent and care-giver to read this book with their children. Our children are the beacon of hope for the future. We hope that each child in Singapore will find this book fun and interesting, and be able to learn and apply the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in their journey of personal growth and development.

Lee Kim Hua
Senior Director
Rehabilitation and Protection Group
Ministry of Social and Family Development
March 2015



Background



The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations in 1989 after consultations with and negotiations between government officials, lawyers, healthcare professionals, social workers, educators, children's support groups, non-governmental organisations and religious groups from around the world. Singapore acceded to the Convention in October 1995.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) sets out minimum standards that governments should meet in providing healthcare, education, legal and social services to children below 18 years in their countries.

Although there are many articles in the CRC (54 in all), four general principles guide the Convention:

- That all children should not be discriminated against, on any basis, including race, colour, sex, language, religion, and disability.
- That children have a right to survival and development in all aspects of their lives, including the physical, emotional, psycho-social, cognitive, social and cultural.
- That the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in all decisions and actions affecting the child, or children as a group.
- That children should be allowed to express their opinions, especially in matters concerning themselves.



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81 Convention on the Rights of the Child

General Principles of the Convention

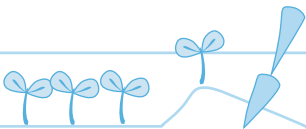




ARTICLE 1

Children are persons below 18 years.

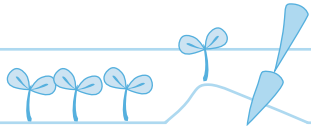
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ARTICLE 2

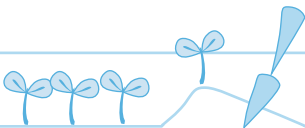
Every child must not suffer discrimination whatever his or her race, colour, sex, language, religion, beliefs, origins, property, disability, birth or other status.



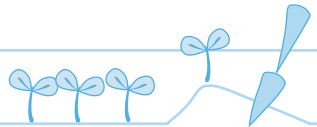
ARTICLE 3

Everyone, including governmental, administrative and judicial authorities, and families, should make decisions and act in the best interests of children.

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ARTICLE 6

Every child has the right to life, survival and development in all aspects of his or her life.





ARTICLE 12

Every child must be allowed to be an active participant in all matters affecting his or her life and be free to express his or her opinions. He or she has the right to have his or her views heard and taken seriously.



The Civil Rights and Freedoms of Children