

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

UNCRC Symbols Resource

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Symbols resource has been designed to be used as a symbol communication tool.

The detail on the back of the card is to support a facilitator with their understanding of the UNCRC.

Children, young people and adult practitioners helped to adapt 42 articles of the UNCRC into symbols.

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Key aims

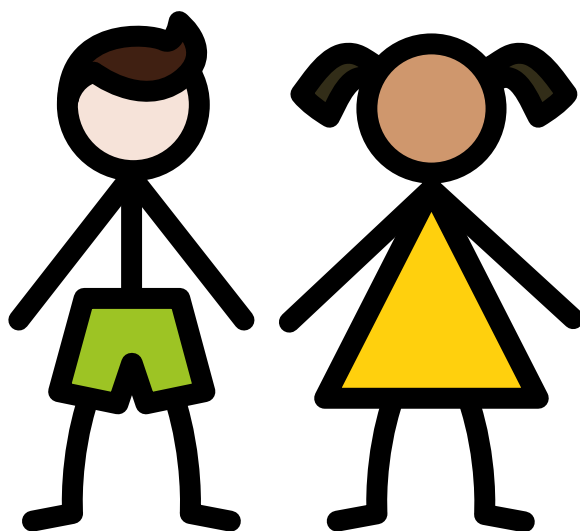
This UNCRC Symbols resource has been designed to:

- Complement the full written version of the UNCRC.
- Develop children and young people's understanding of what rights mean to them, and how they relate to their everyday lives.
- Be personalised to suit the needs of individual children or young people.

The UNCRC Symbols resource can be used by educators, support workers, youth workers and practitioners, working with children and young people in a range of settings.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

< 18



1

Everyone under 18
has rights

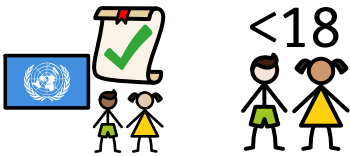


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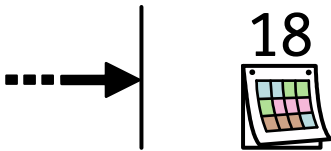


1

Everyone under 18 has rights



Under the UNCRF, a child means every human being below the age of 18.



A child has all the rights in the UNCRF until they are 18 years old.

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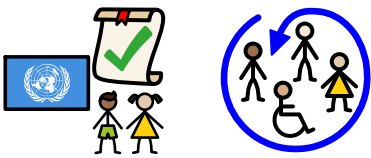


2

All children have these rights no matter what their differences are

2

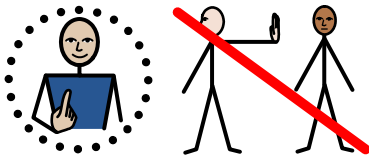
All children have these rights no matter what their differences are



The UNCRC applies to all under 18s, with no exceptions.

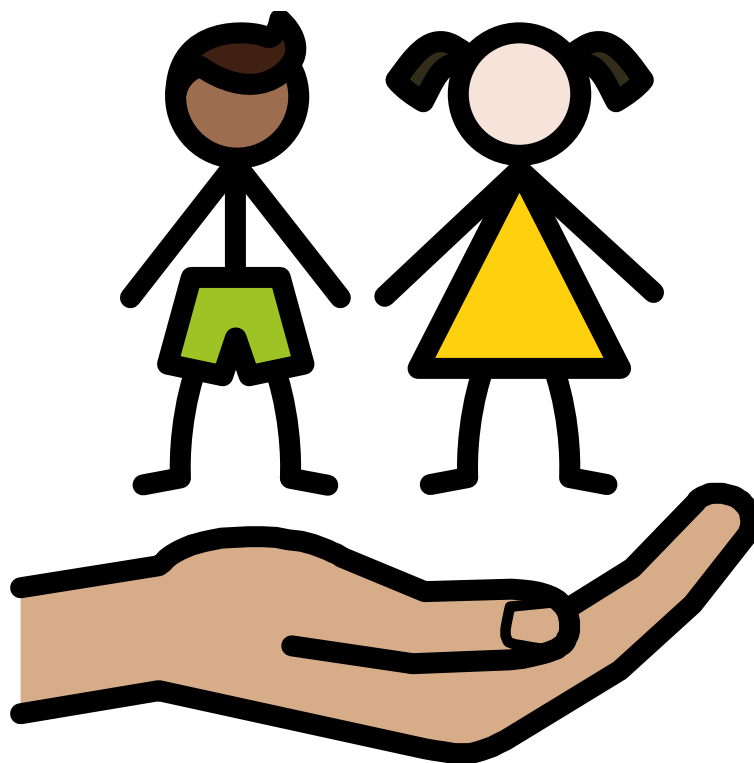


Governments should make sure that every child has equal access to their rights.



Governments should make sure that children are protected against discrimination.

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3

Adults must do
what's best for me

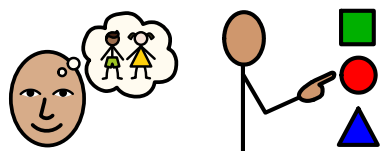


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3

Adults must do what's best for me



When adults make decisions, they should think how they affect children and do what is best for them.

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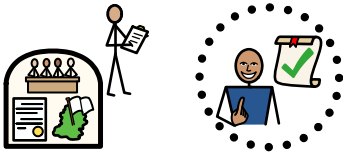


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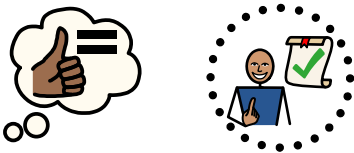
Governments must protect and respect my rights

4

Governments must protect and respect my rights

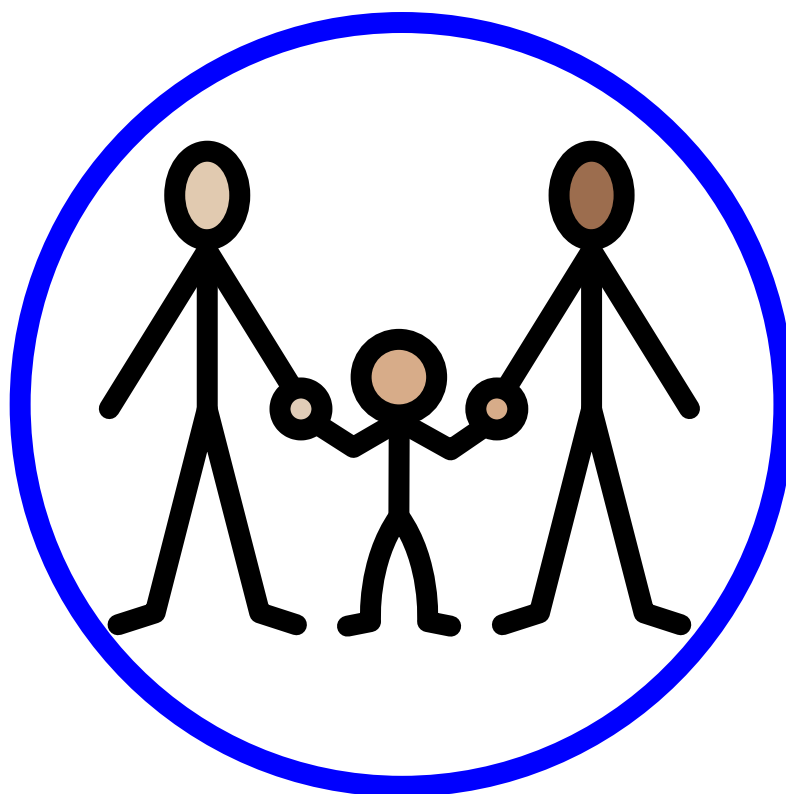


Governments must make sure that children's rights are protected.



Governments must make sure other people respect children's rights.

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5

My family should help me know and use my own rights



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5

My family should help me know and use my own rights

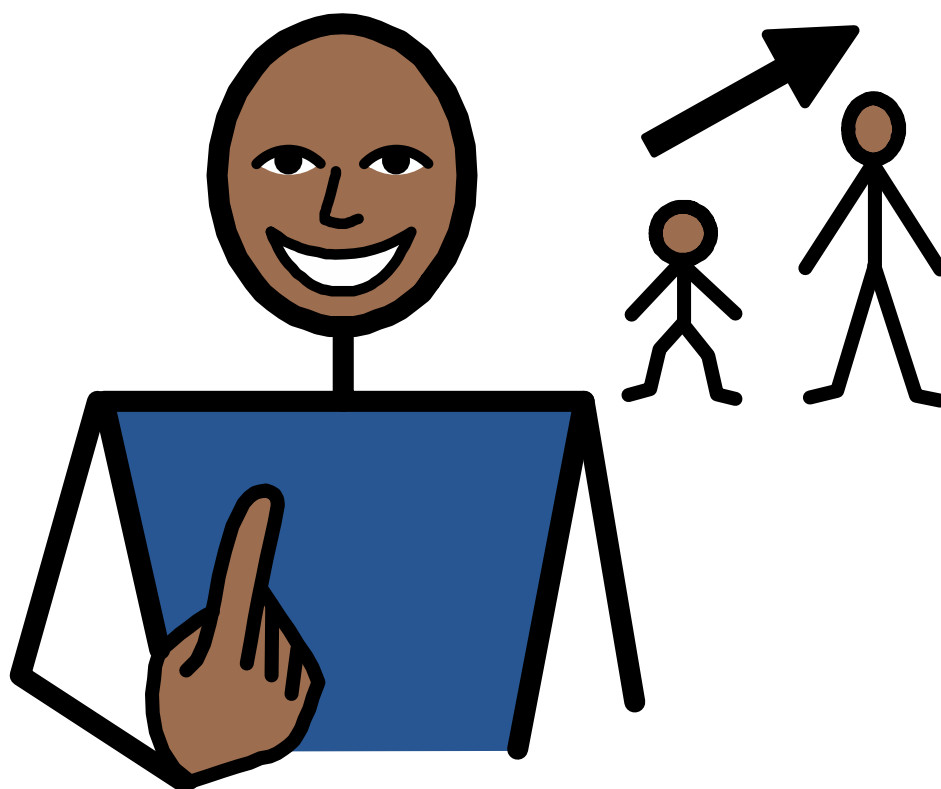


Governments should support my parents to help me realise my rights.



My family should support me to know and use my rights and make more of my own decisions, as I get older.

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6

I have the right to live and grow as a person



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6

I have the right to live
and grow as a person

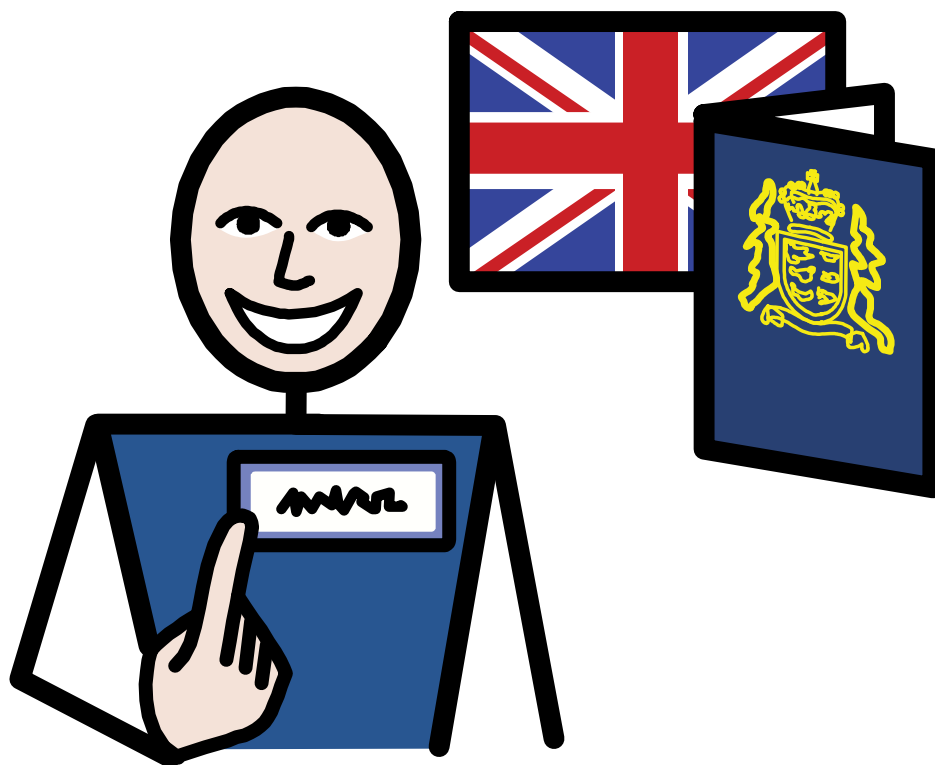


Children have the right to life.



Governments should make sure that children
develop and grow healthily and should protect
them from things which could hurt them.

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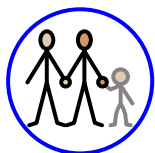
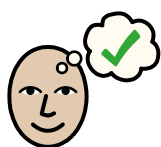
7 I have a right to a name
and to belong to a country

7

I have a right to a name and to belong to a country

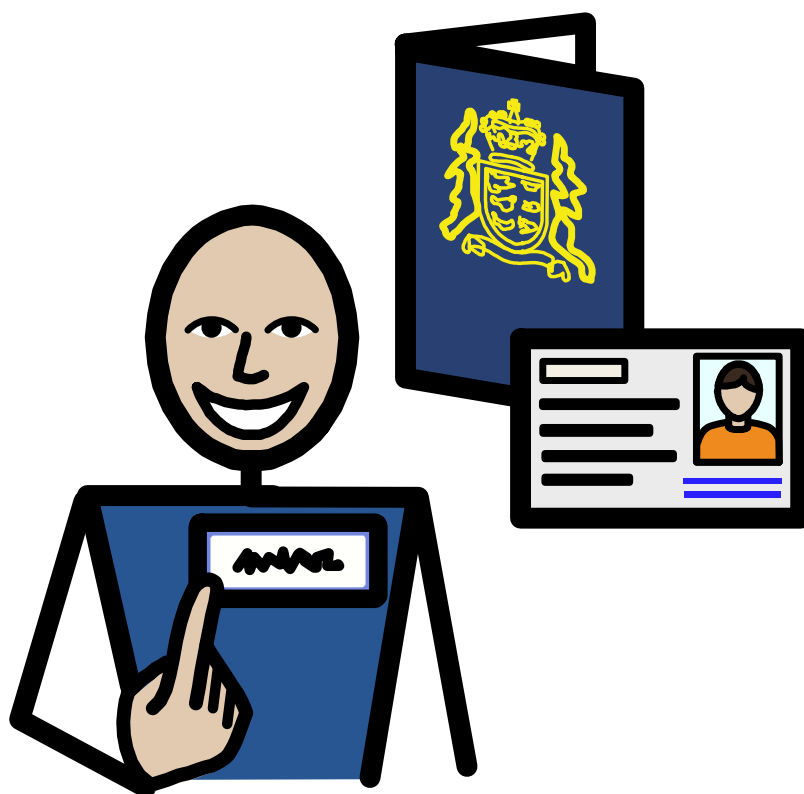


Governments should make sure I have a legally registered name and a nationality.



Children have the right to know
who their parents are.

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8

I have a right
to an identity



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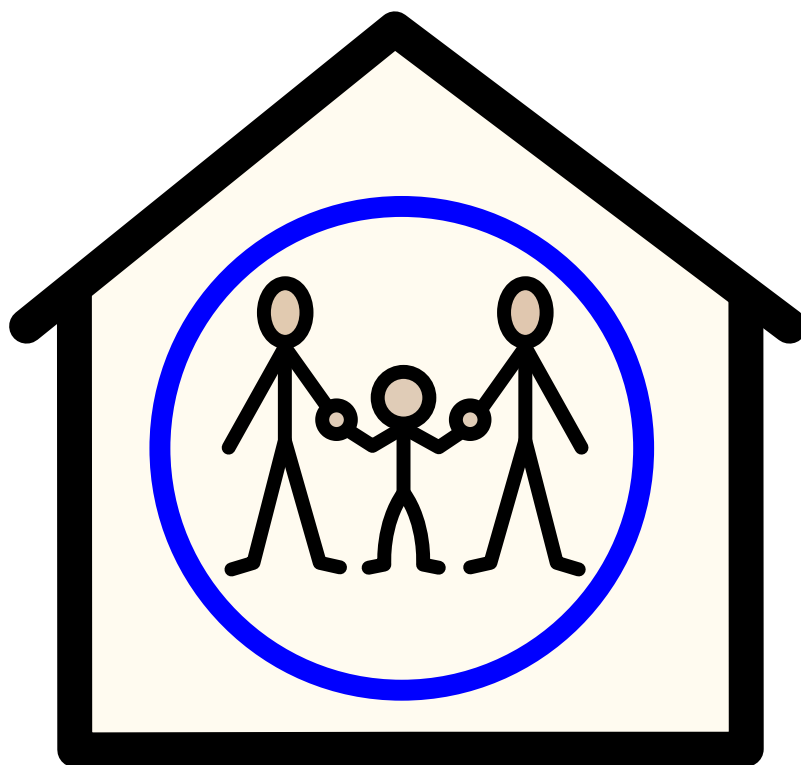
8

I have a right to an identity



**Governments should respect children's right
to their own name and nationality.
Their family ties should be respected.**

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9

I have a right to live with my family if they can keep me safe



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9

I have a right to live with my family if they can keep me safe



Governments should only separate children from their parents if it is the best thing for them.

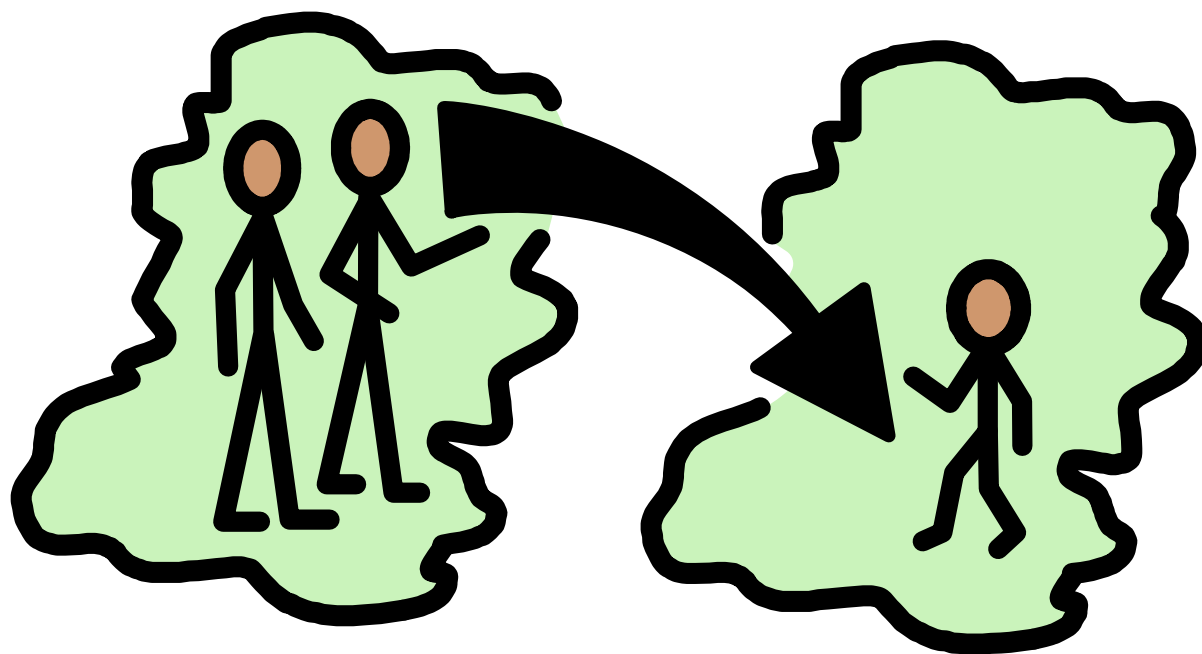


Governments should make sure children can have contact with their parents if they don't live with them.



In discussions around separation, children should be given a chance for their views to be taken into account when decisions are made.

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10

I have the right to see my parents if they live in another country



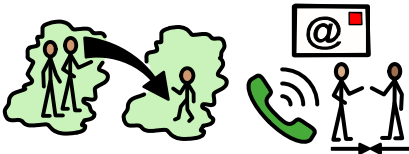
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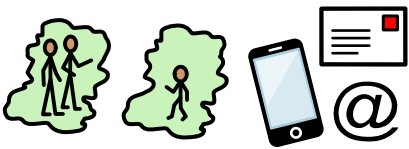
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10

I have the right to see my parents if they live in another country

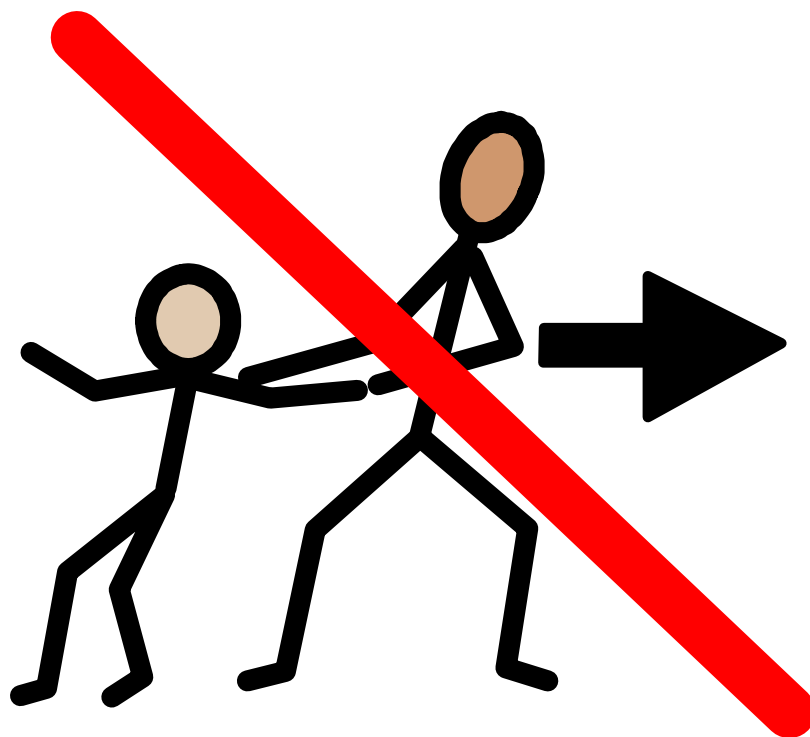


Governments should let families move between countries so that parents and children can stay in contact.



If children have parents living in different countries, they have the right to stay in contact with both of them.

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11

I have the right not to be taken out of my country illegally

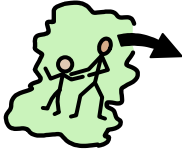


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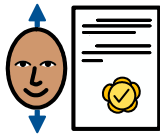


11

I have the right not to be taken out of my country illegally

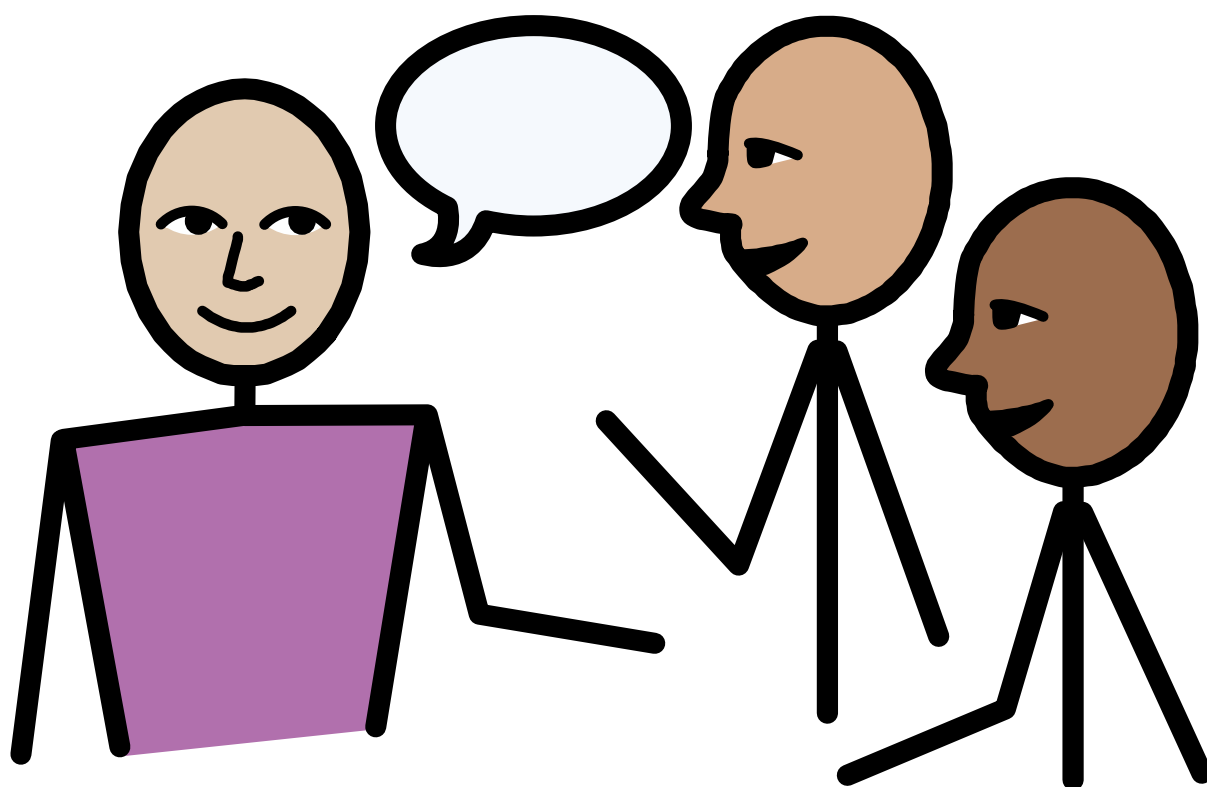


Governments should do all they can to stop children being taken out of their own country illegally.



Governments should work with other governments to make sure this doesn't happen.

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12

I have the right to be listened to, and taken seriously

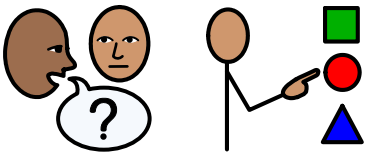


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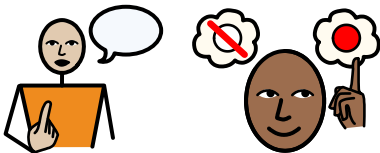


12

I have the right to be listened to, and taken seriously



When adults are making decisions that affect children they should ask them what they think.



Adults should take account of children's views when making the decision.



Children should be supported to give their views in a way that is best for them.

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13

I have the right to
get information and
share my views



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13

I have the right to get information and share my views



Governments should help children get the information they need, and make sure that information they access via the internet or other media is accurate.



Governments should let children access and share information, unless it is damaging to them or someone else.



Governments shouldn't stop children from saying what they think.

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14

I have the right to have my own thoughts and beliefs and to choose my religion, with help from my parents



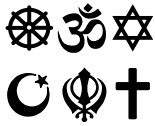
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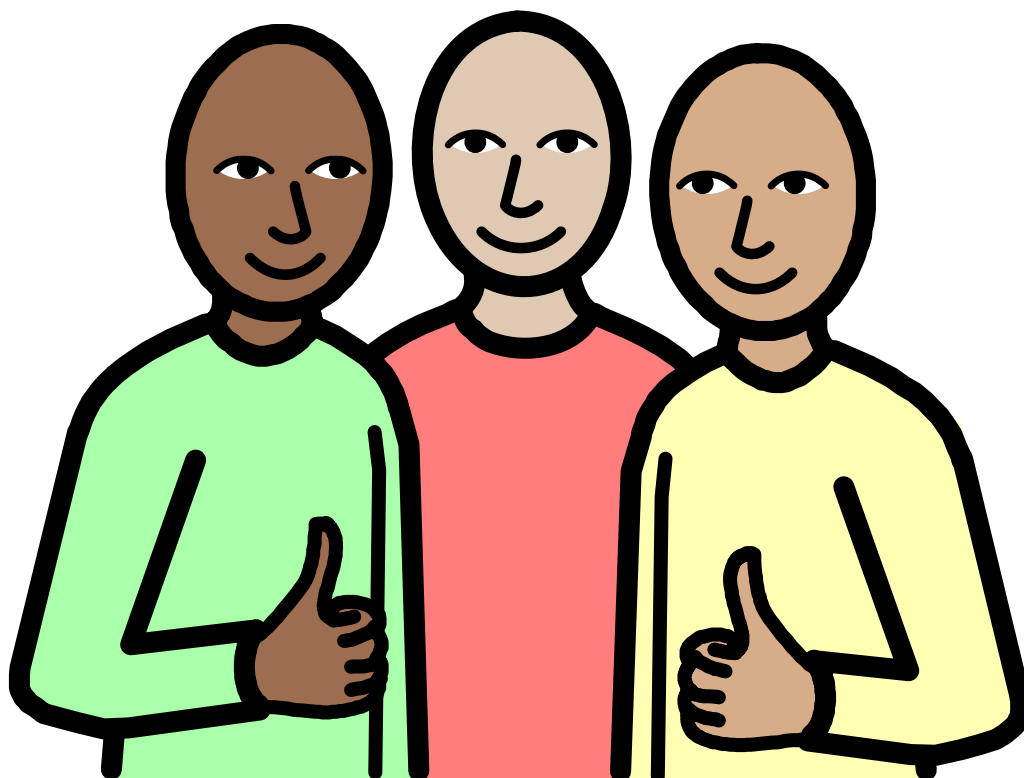
14

I have the right to have my own thoughts and beliefs and to choose my religion, with help from my parents



Governments should make sure no one stops children from practising their religion or beliefs. Parents should guide their children in this.

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15

I have the right to
meet with friends
and join groups



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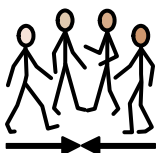


15

I have the right to meet with friends and join groups



Governments should make sure children can meet with friends and join groups or organisations.



Governments should make sure children can safely meet other people in public spaces to protest peacefully when they want to change things.

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16

I have the right to keep some things private

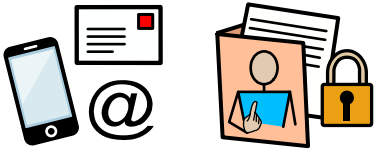


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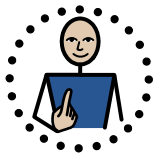


16

I have the right to keep some things private



There should be laws to make sure a child's diary, online messages and phone calls remain private.



Governments should protect children from attacks against them, their way of life and their home.

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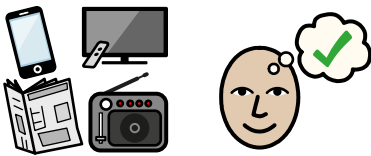


17

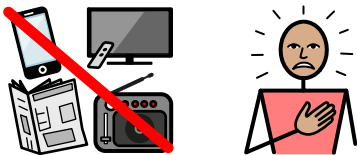
I have the right to get information in lots of ways, as long as it's safe

17

I have the right to get information in lots of ways, as long as it's safe

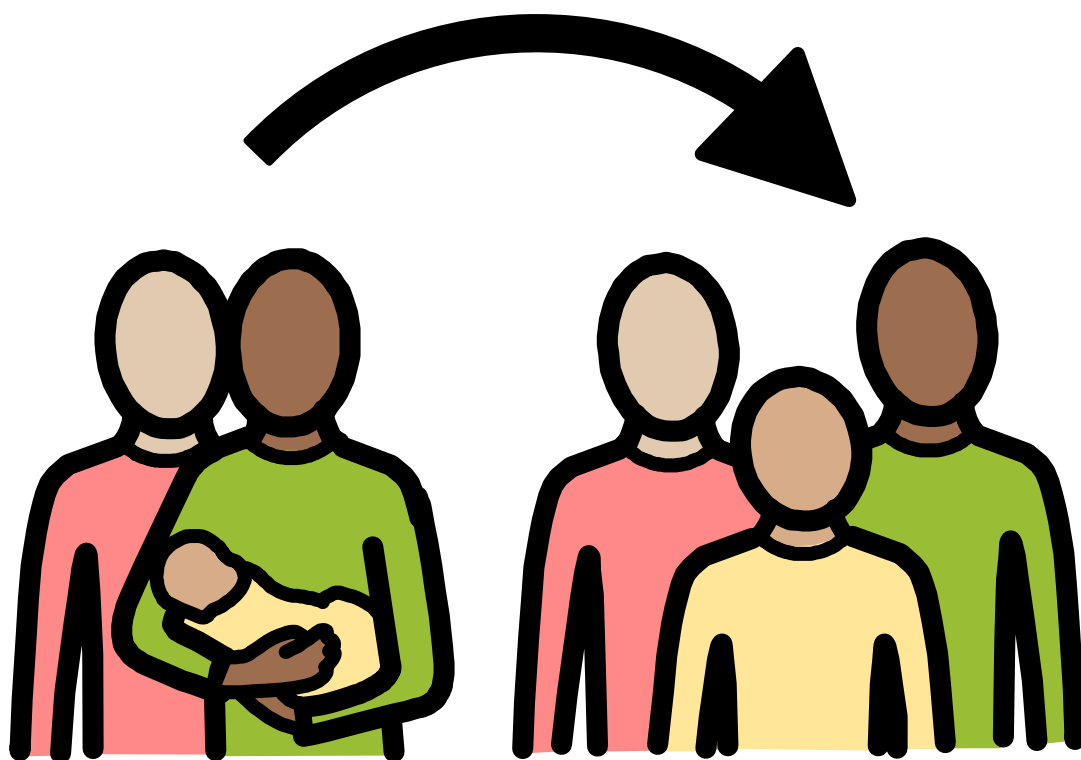


Children should be able to access information they can understand on TV, radio, in books and newspapers and on the internet.



Governments should make sure children are protected from things that could harm them.

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18

I have the right to support from both parents, if possible



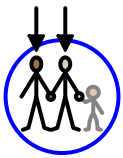
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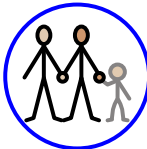
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18

I have the right to support from both parents, if possible

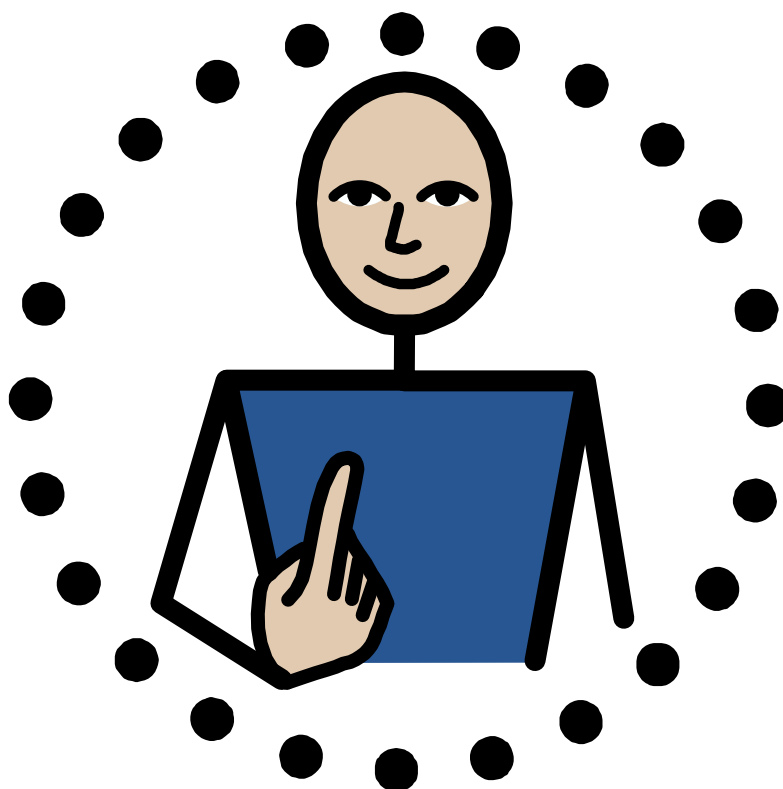


Both parents share the responsibility for bringing up children. Parents should always consider what is best for each child.



Governments should help parents by providing services to support them to be better parents.

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19

I have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated

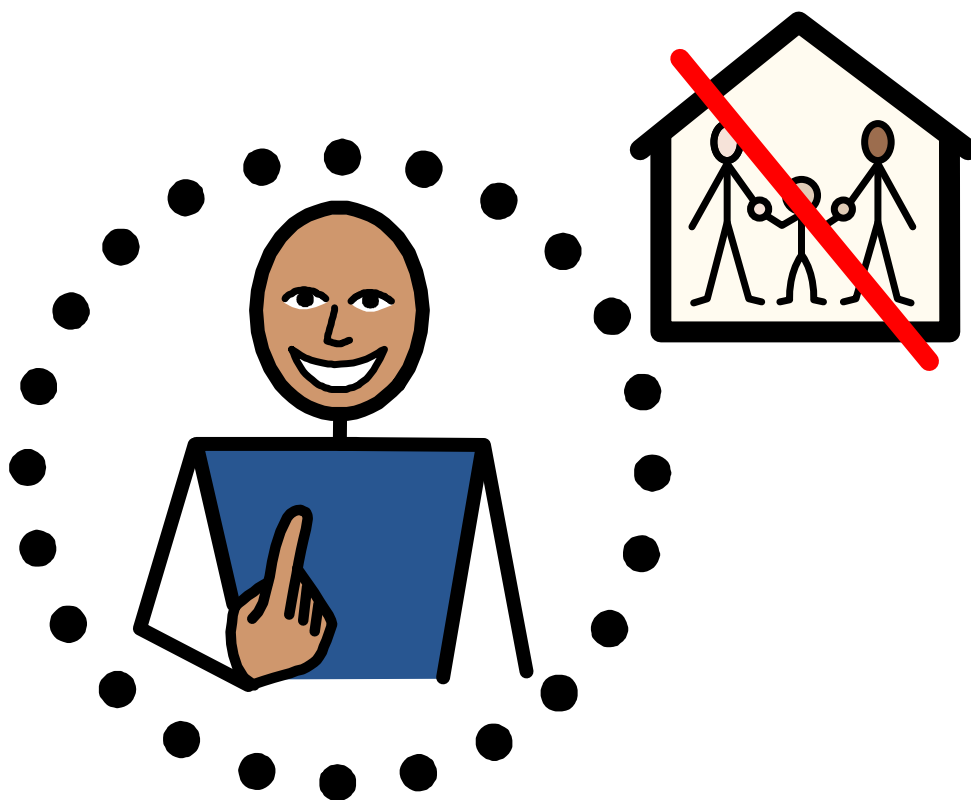
19

I have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated



Governments should make sure that children are properly cared for. There should be laws to protect children from violence, abuse and neglect from adults.

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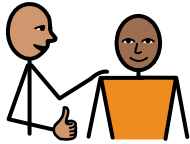


20

I have the right to be looked after if I can't live with my own family

20

I have the right to be looked after if I can't live with my own family

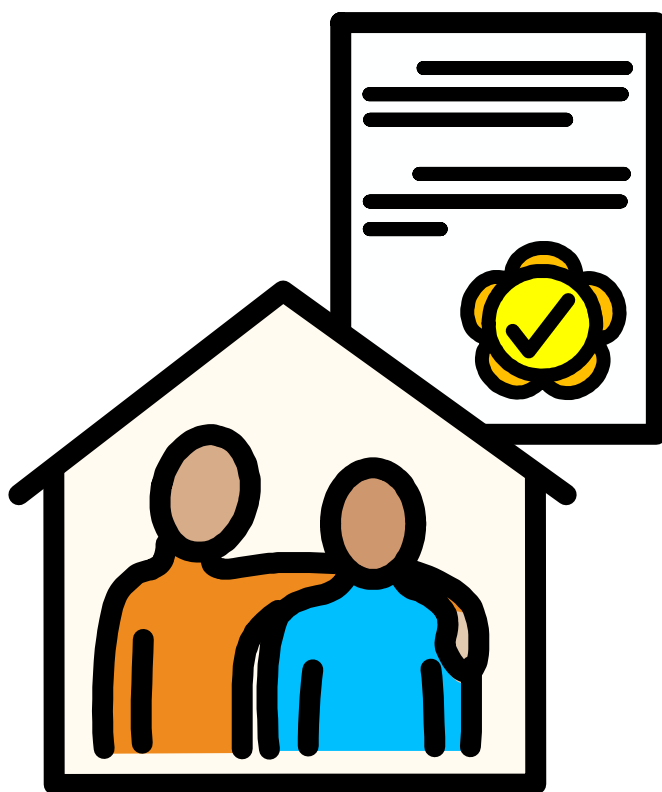


If children cannot be looked after by their own family, they must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.



Governments should make sure that alternative care is available for children.

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21

I have the right to
have the best care
if I am adopted

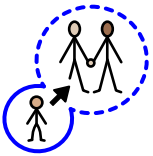


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21

I have the right to
have the best care
if I am adopted

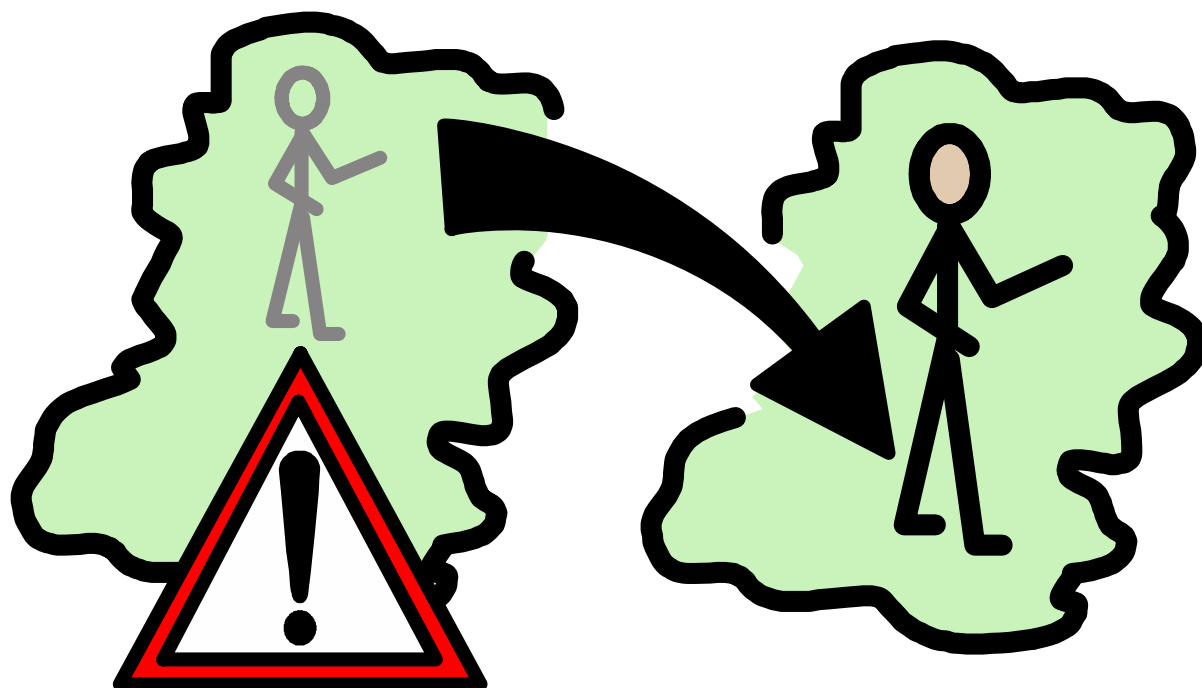


If a child is adopted, the first concern
must be what is best for them.



The same rules should apply whether the
adoption takes place in the country where they
were born, or if they move to another country.

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22

If I am a refugee, I have a right to help, protection, and the same rights as children born in this country



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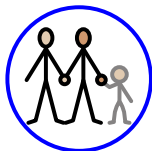


22

If I am a refugee, I have a right to help, protection, and the same rights as children born in this country

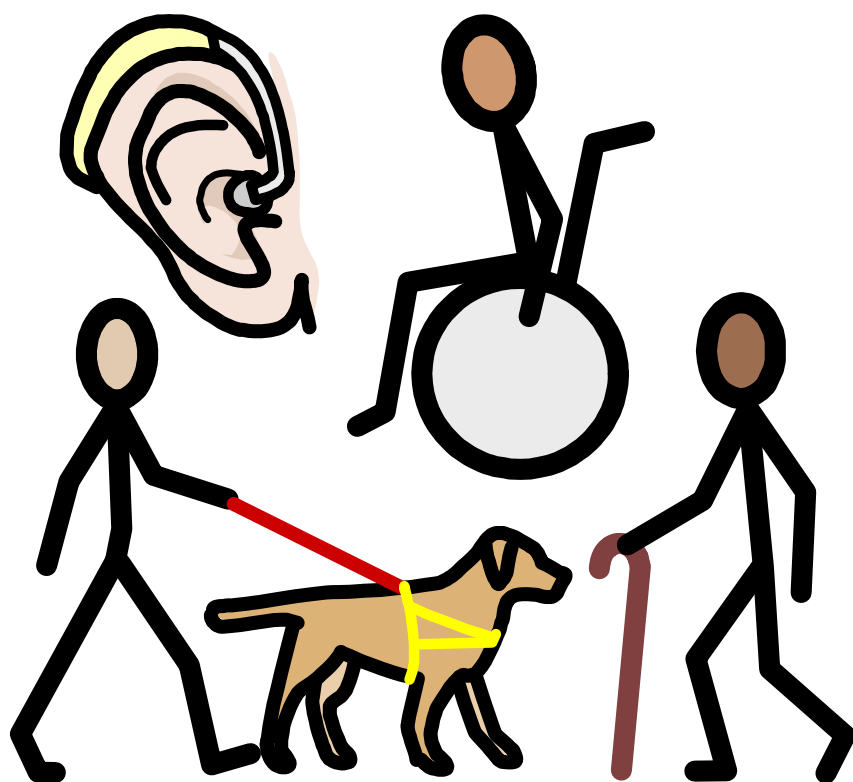


If a child comes to live in another country as a refugee, they should have the same rights as children born in that country as well as special protection as a refugee.



Governments should try to help find the family of any refugee child.

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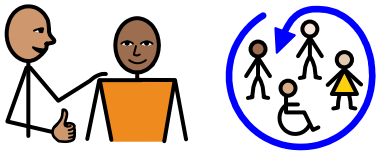


23

If I am disabled, I have the right to special care and education

23

If I am disabled, I have the right to special care and education



Disabled children should be supported to reach their full potential. They should be provided with activities with others so that they can be an active participant in their own community.



Governments should make sure disabled children receive an education, health care and opportunities to relax, play and do other activities.

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24

I have the right to be as healthy as possible



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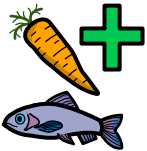


24

I have the right to be
as healthy as possible



Governments should make sure children
can get good quality health care.



Governments should make sure
children have nutritious food and a clean
environment so they can stay healthy.

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25

If I am not living with my family, people should keep checking I am safe and happy



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25

If I am not living with my family, people should keep checking I am safe and happy



If a child is in care, local authorities should regularly check on how children are doing. Governments should make sure this happens.

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26

If my family need it,
they should get money
to help bring me up



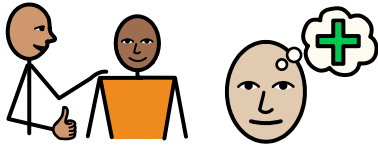
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26

If my family need it,
they should get money
to help bring me up



Governments should help children's families if
they cannot afford all the things they need to
meet their mental and physical needs.

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27

I have the right to have a proper home, food and clothing



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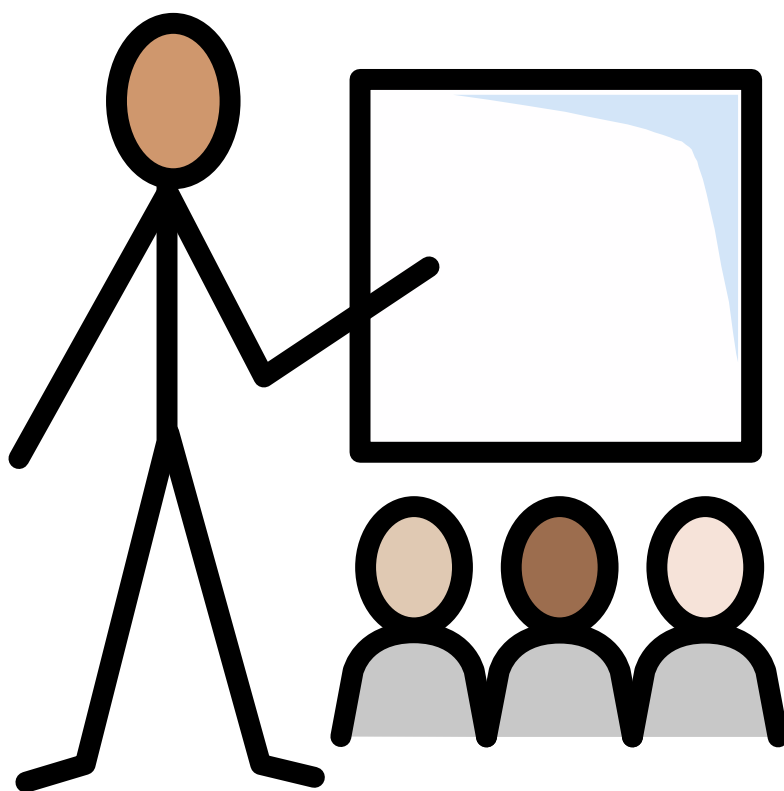
27

I have the right to
have a proper home,
food and clothing



Governments should make sure families
have access to good housing, healthy food
and warm clothing.

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28

I have the right
to an education

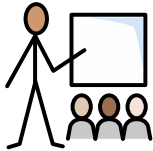


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28

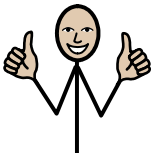
I have the right to an education



Governments should make sure children can get an education without it costing their family money.

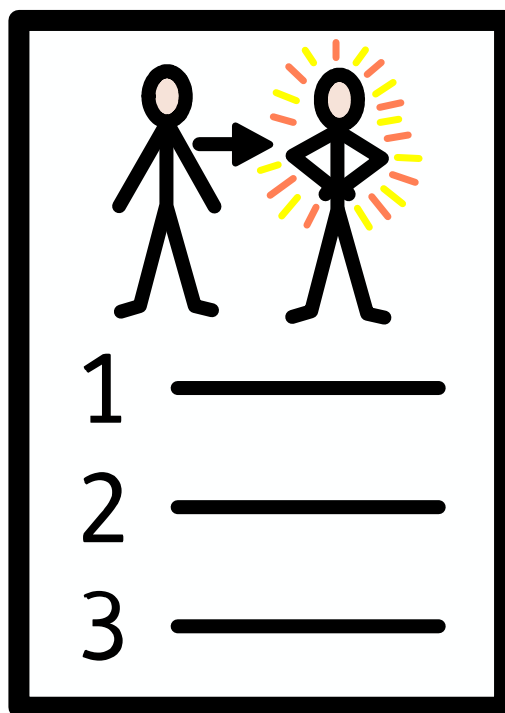
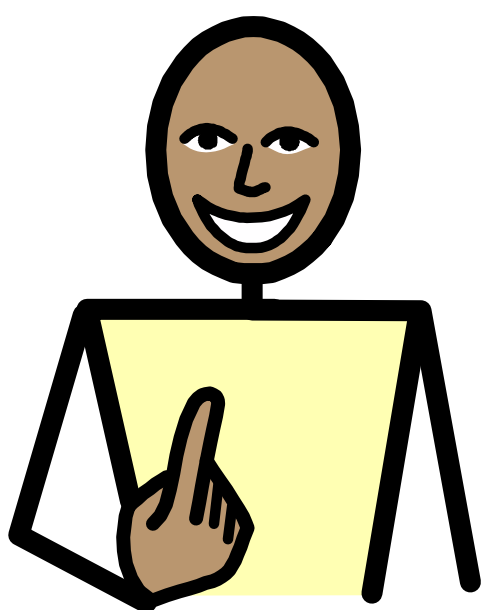


Schools should respect my dignity.



Children should be able to stay in secondary education as long as they want.

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29

I have the right to an education which develops my personality, talents and abilities

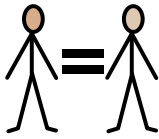


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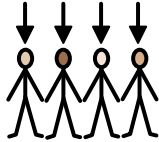
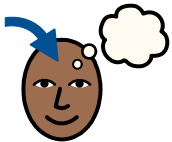
I have the right to an education which develops my personality, talents and abilities



Education should develop children's respect for other people's human rights.

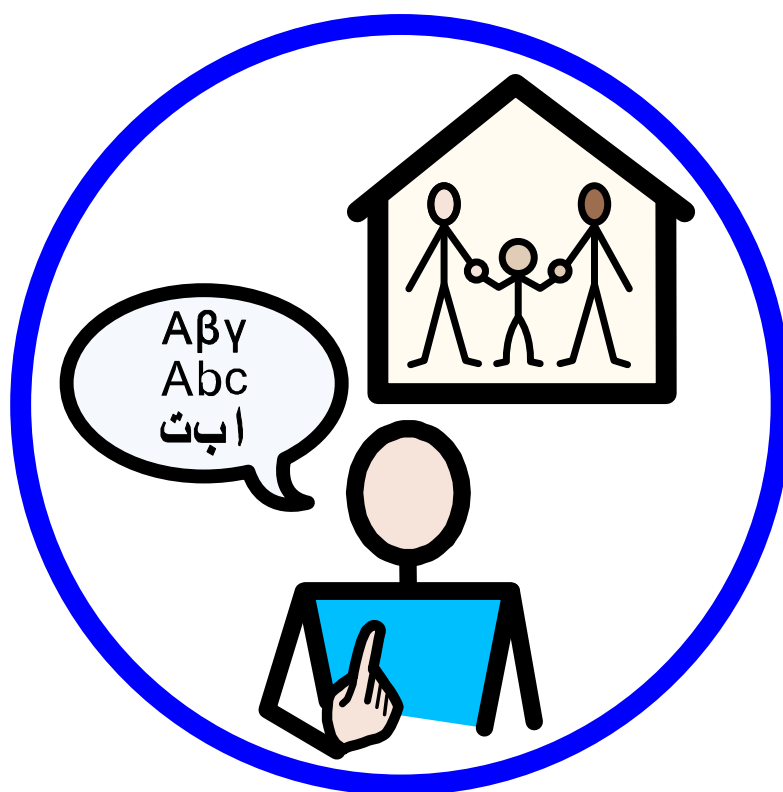


Education should develop children's respect for the environment.



Children should learn about their own culture and other cultures.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



30

I have a right to speak my own language and to follow my family's way of life

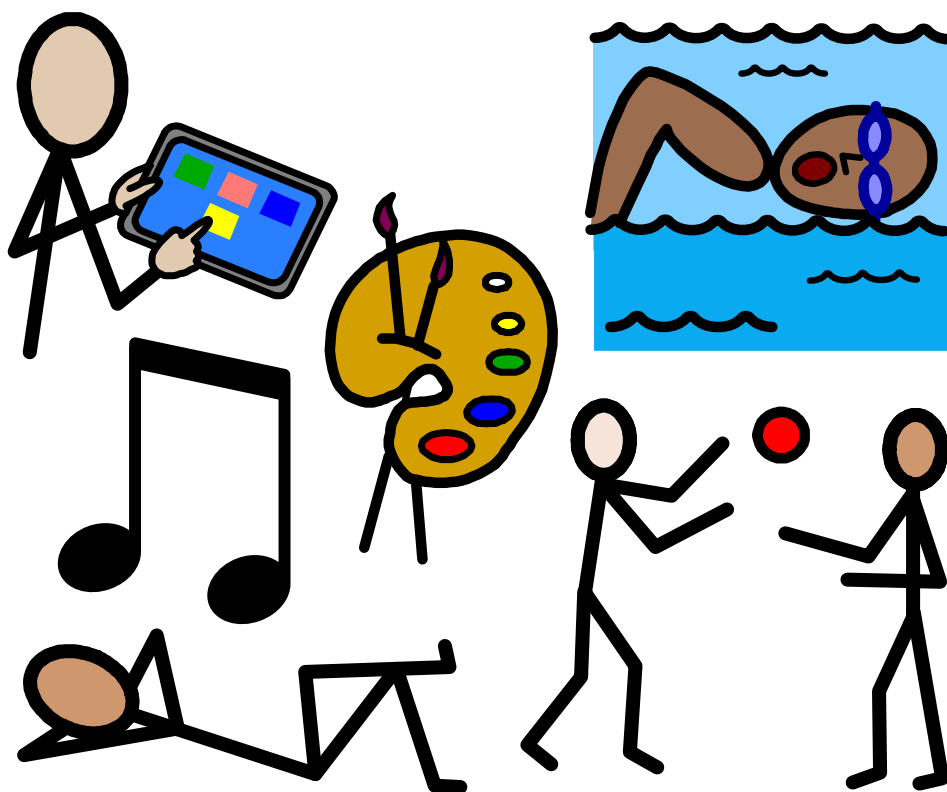
30

I have a right to speak my own language and to follow my family's way of life



Governments should make sure children can learn the language, religion, and culture of their family if it is different from those of most people in the country where they live.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



31

I have a right to rest,
relax and play

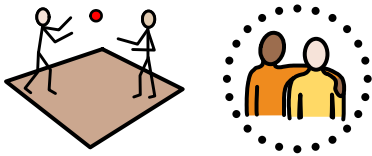


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31

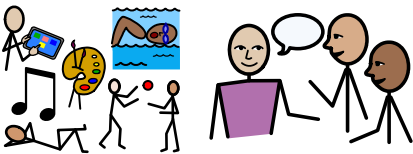
I have a right to rest,
relax and play



Adults should make sure children have the chance to play and relax in a safe, supportive and stimulating environment.



Governments should make sure children can be part of cultural and artistic activities.



When decisions are made about activities in the community, adults should include children in planning these.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



32

I have the right not to have to work unless I am old enough and it is safe

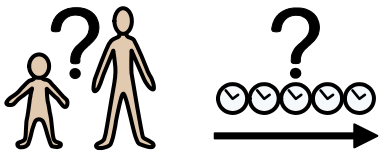


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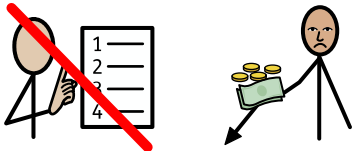


32

I have the right not to have to work unless I am old enough and it is safe



Governments should agree a minimum age for when children can start work. They should say how many hours children are allowed to work.



When children are old enough, there should be laws to make sure that adults who don't stick to these rules are fined.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



33

I have the right to be protected from dangerous drugs

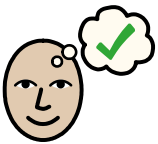


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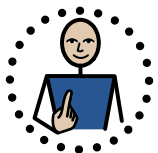


33

I have the right to be protected from dangerous drugs

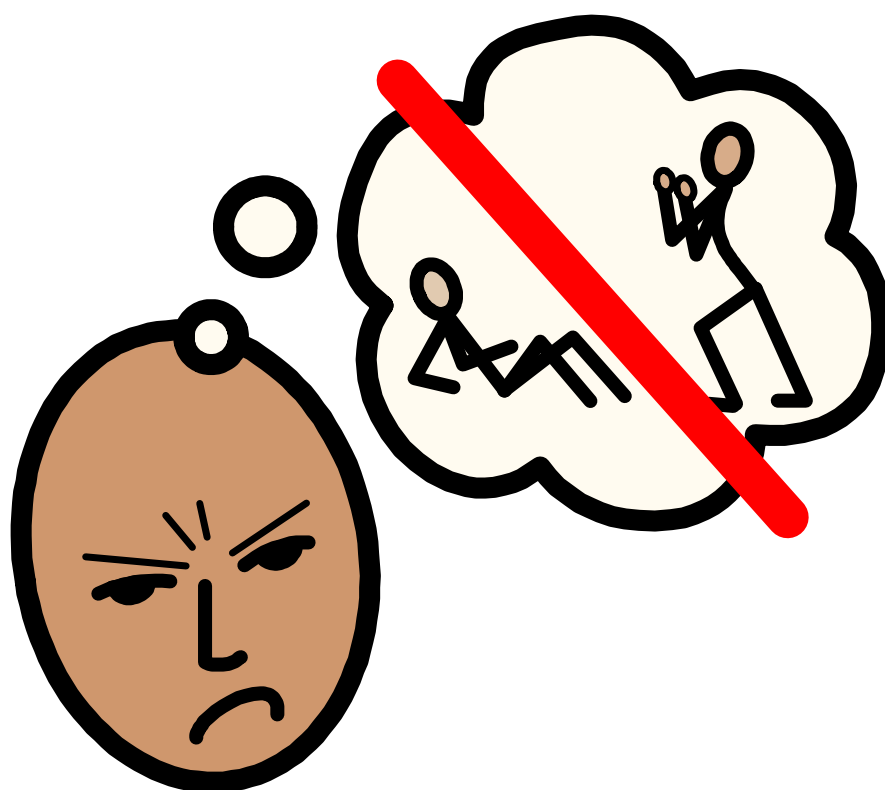


Governments should make sure children know about dangerous drugs.



Governments should protect children from coming into contact with them.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



34

I have the right not to be touched in ways that make me feel uncomfortable, unsafe or sad

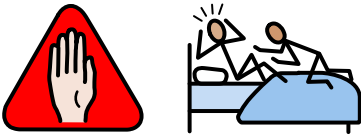


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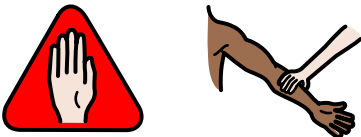


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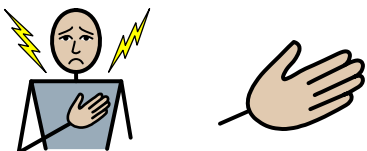
I have the right not to be touched in ways that make me feel uncomfortable, unsafe or sad



Governments should protect children from sexual abuse.



Nobody should do anything to children's bodies that they do not want them to do, like touching them or taking pictures of them.



If children have been harmed or abused they should get the help they need to recover.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

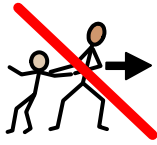


35

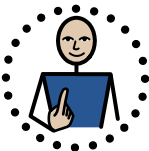
I have the right not to be kidnapped, sold or trafficked

35

I have the right not to be kidnapped, sold or trafficked



Governments should make sure that children are not taken from their family illegally.



Governments should make sure that children are not sold, kidnapped or trafficked.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



36

I have the right not to be used by adults in ways that harm me



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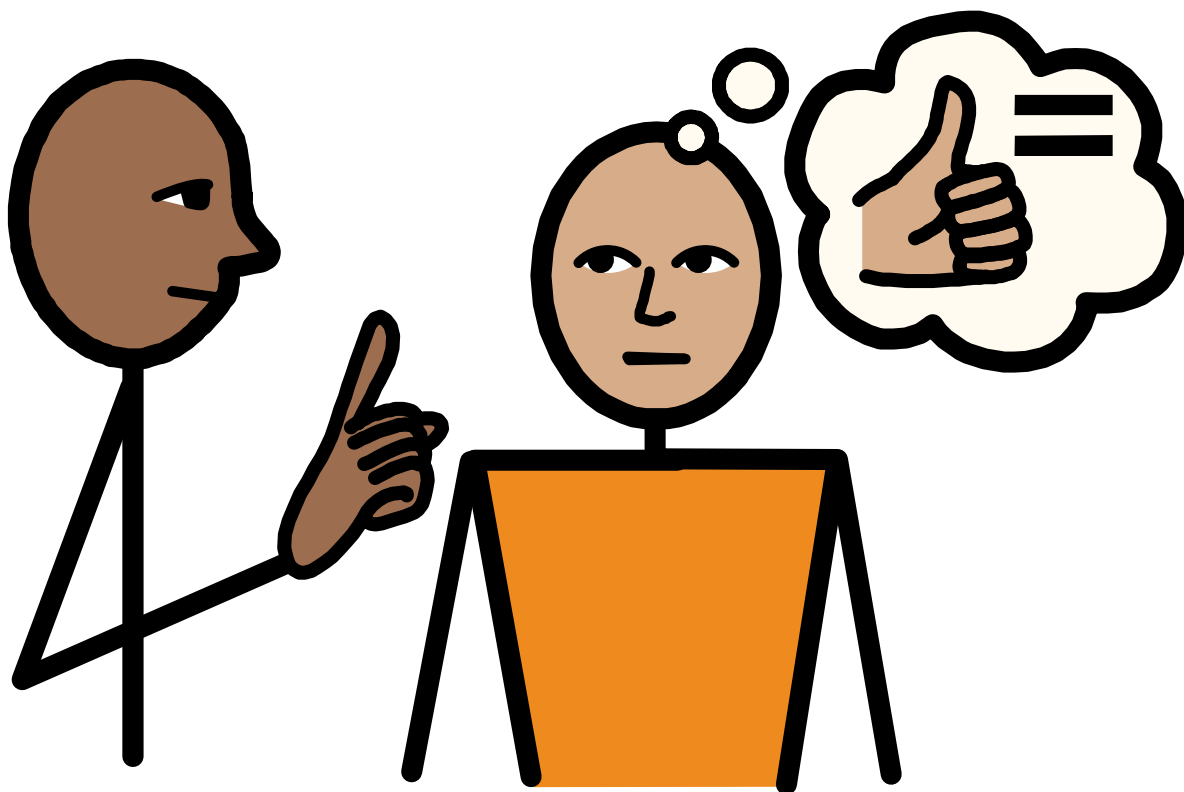
36

I have the right not to be used by adults in ways that harm me



Governments should protect children from work or other activities that could harm their welfare.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



37

If I break the law, I have the right not to be punished in a cruel or unnecessary way

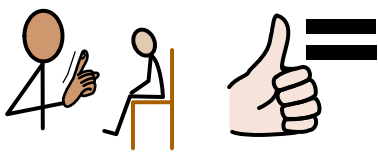


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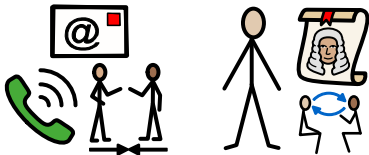


37

If I break the law, I have the right not to be punished in a cruel or unnecessary way

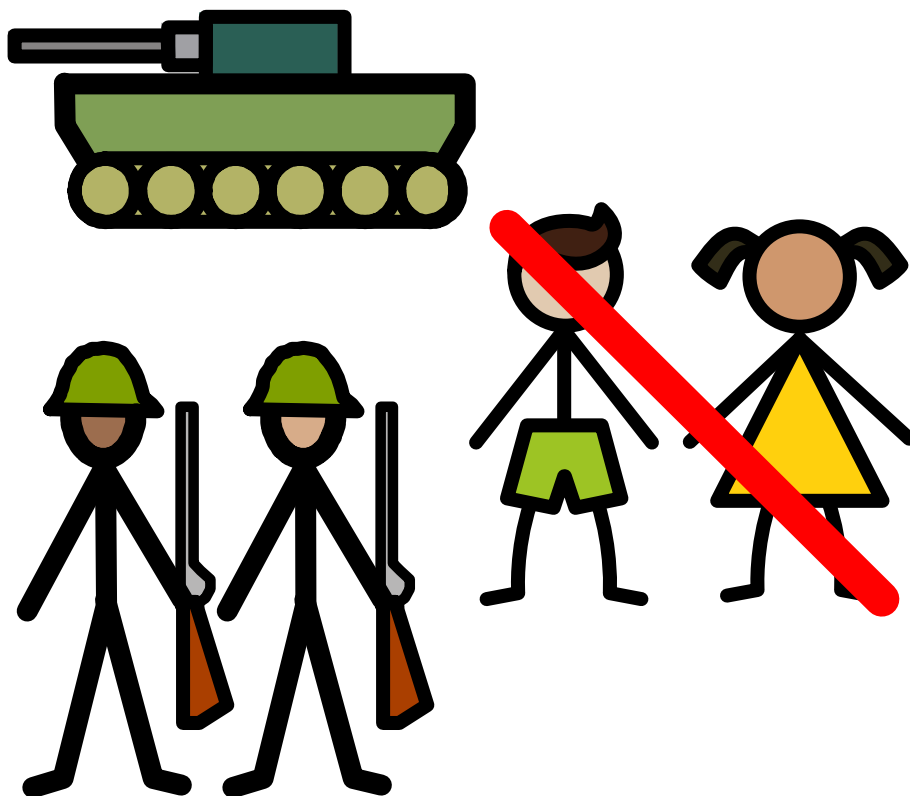


If children break the law, governments should make sure that they are treated fairly, are kept safe and not put in prison with adults.



Governments should provide children with legal help and make sure they can have contact with their family.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



38

I have the right not to join the armed forces

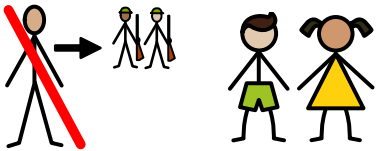


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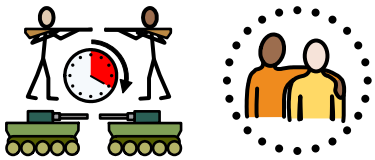


38

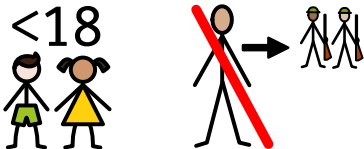
I have the right not to join the armed forces



Governments should not recruit children into the armed forces.

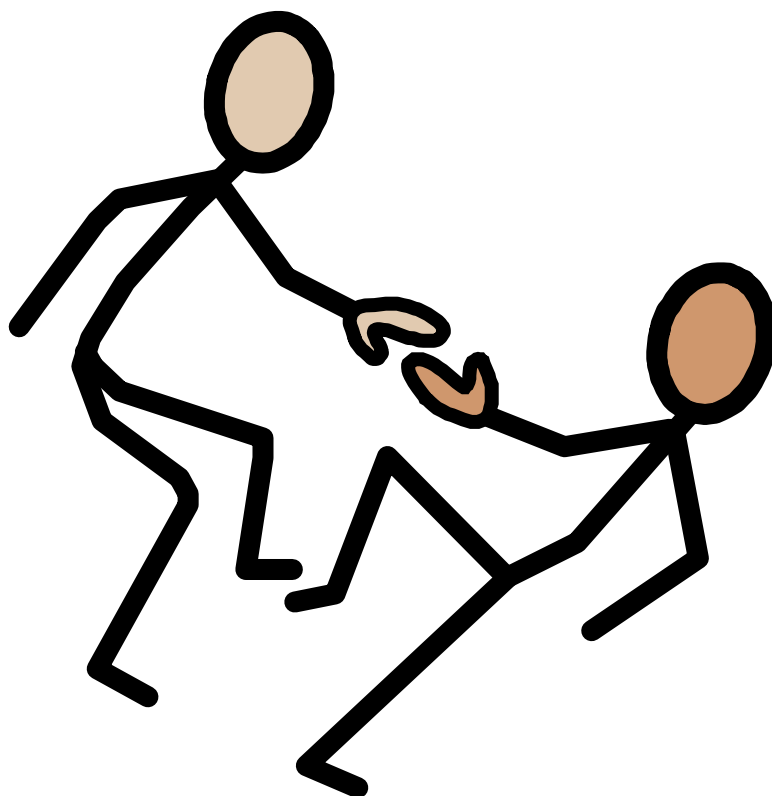


Governments should make sure that children are given extra protection when there is a war or armed conflict.



The Committee on the Rights of the Child has made it clear that no child under 18 should be recruited to the armed forces.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



39

I have the right to help to get better if I have been hurt or badly treated



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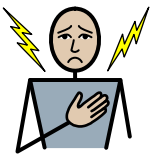


39

**I have the right to help
to get better if I have been
hurt or badly treated**

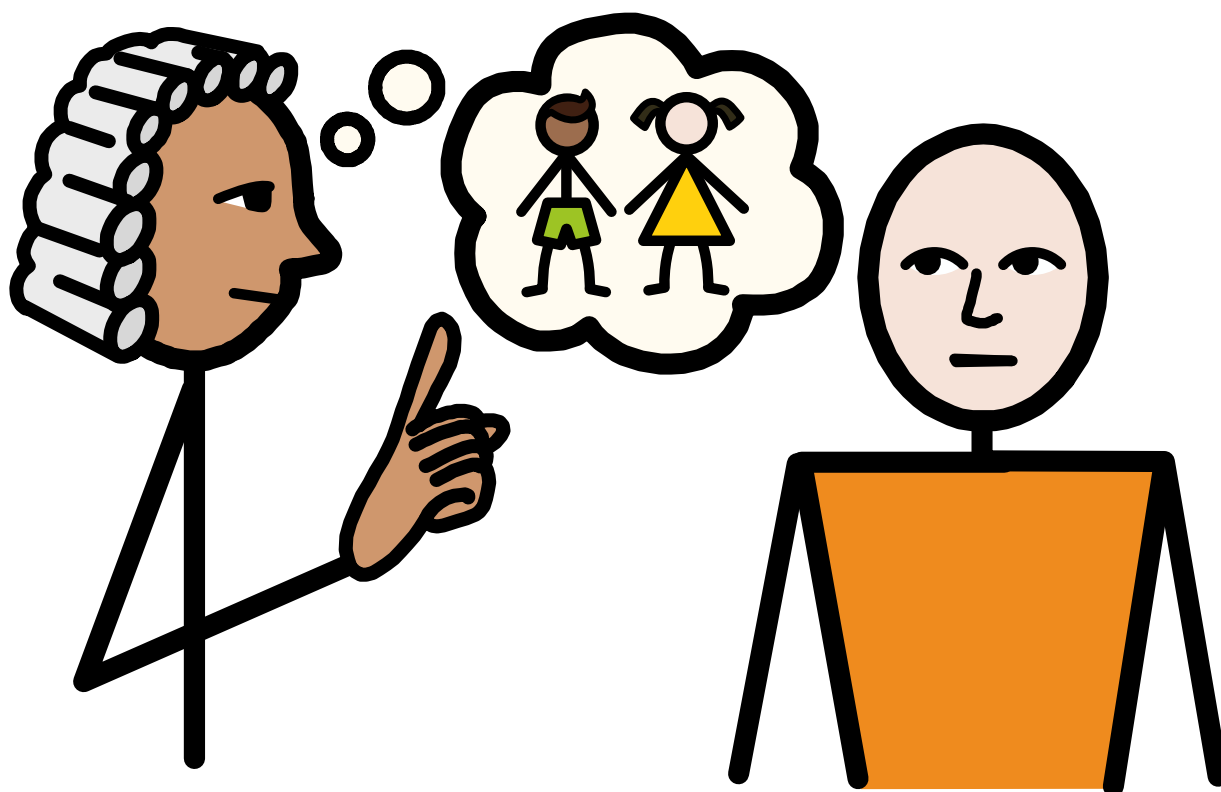


**Governments should have laws to
protect children from harm.**



**If they are hurt, neglected or badly treated,
governments should provide children with special
help to help them get better.**

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



40

I have the right to be treated as a child if I break the law

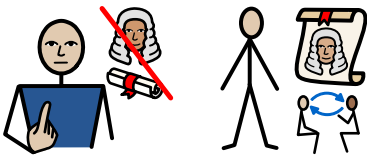


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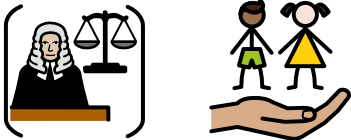


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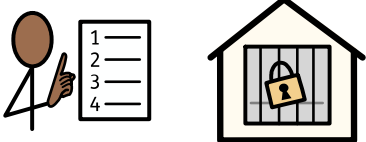
I have the right to be treated as a child if I break the law



Governments should make sure that children accused of breaking the law have access to a lawyer.

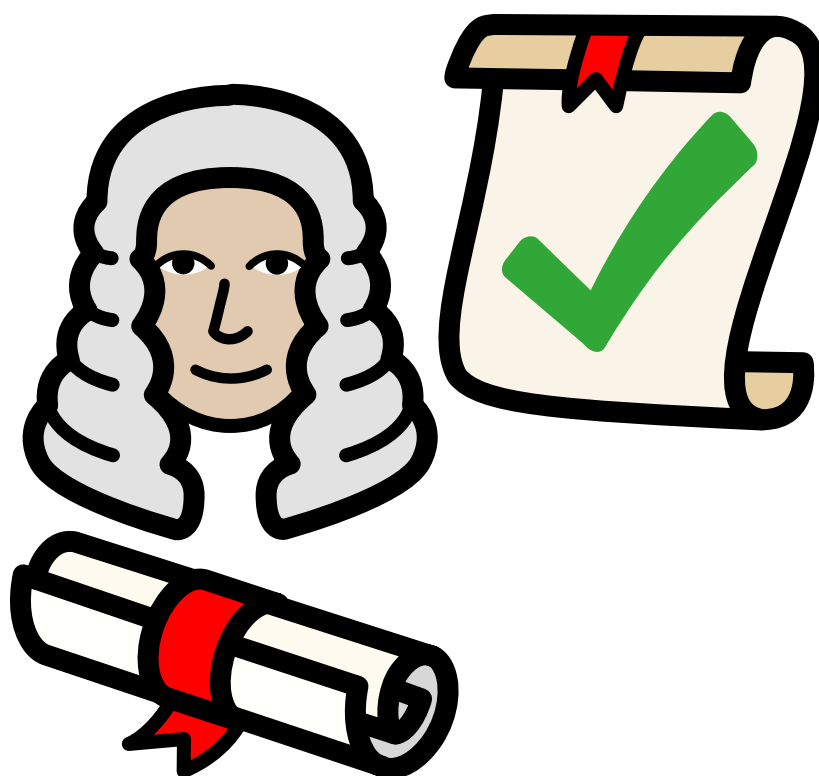


There should be a special justice system for children.



Children should only be kept somewhere they are not allowed to leave as a last resort.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



41

If the laws in my country protect me better than the articles of the UNCRC then those laws should stay.

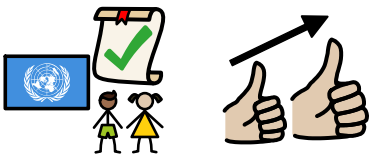


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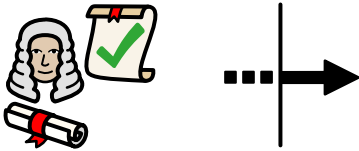


41

If the laws in my country protect me better than the articles of the UNCRC then those laws should stay.



The rights listed in the UNCRC are a foundation on which governments can build.



Where governments have even better laws than in the UNCRC then governments should keep them.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

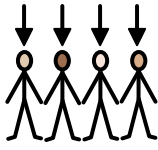


42

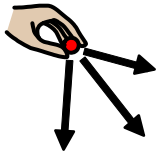
Everyone should know about children's rights

42

Everyone should know about children's rights

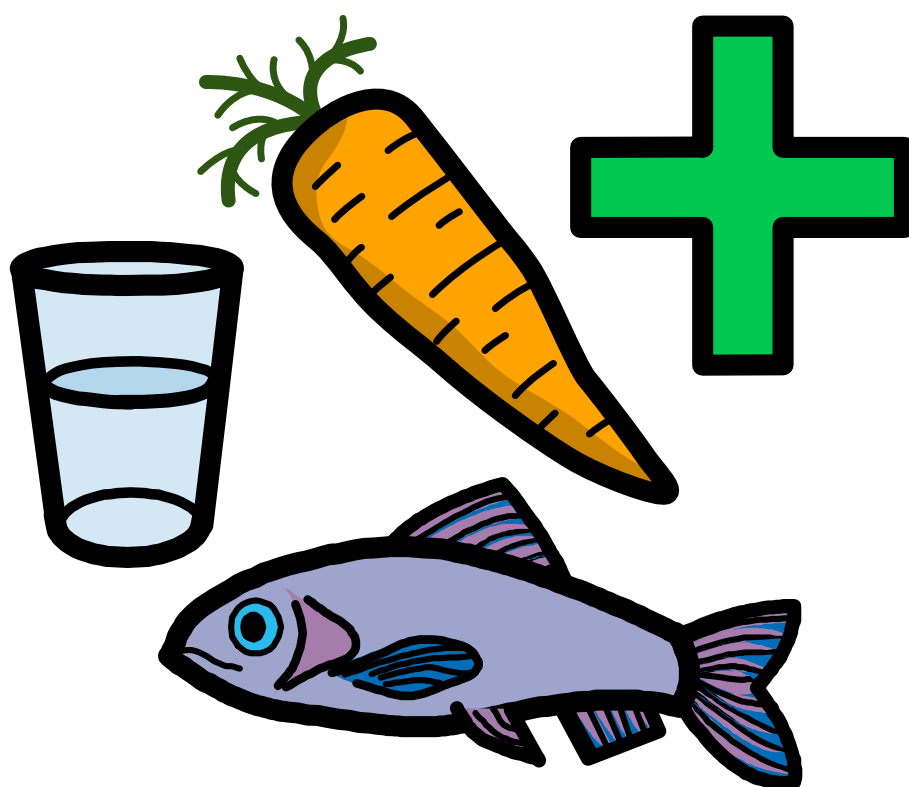


Governments should make sure that adults and children know about the UNCRC.



They should make sure they do this in an appropriate and active way.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



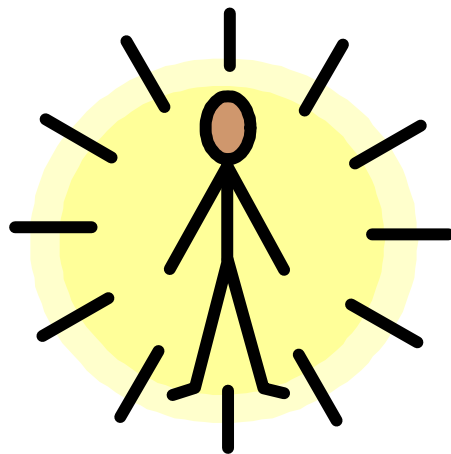
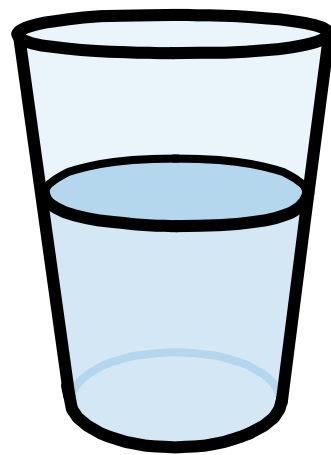
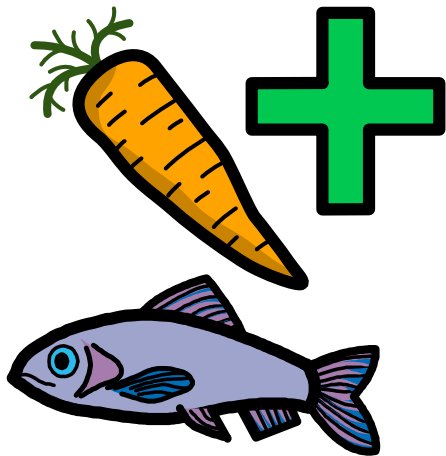
Survival



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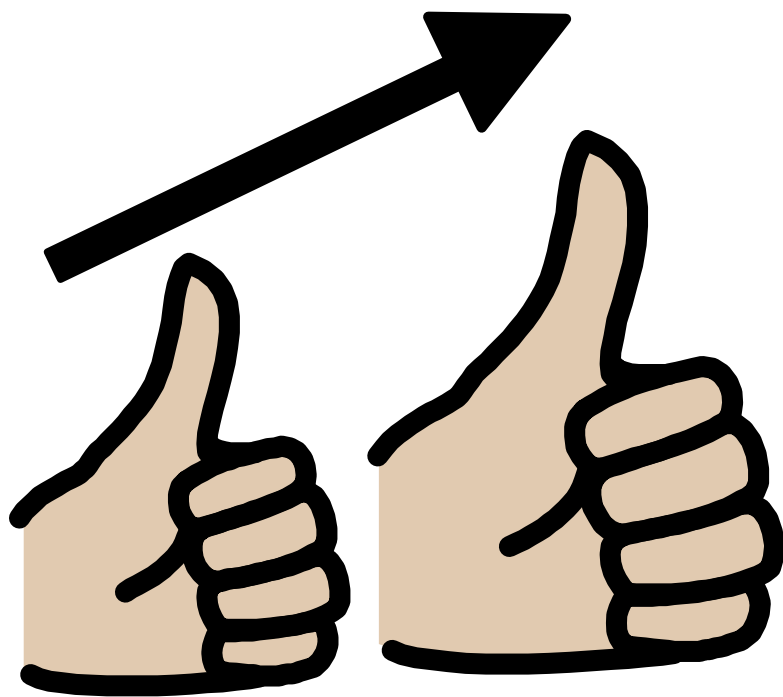


Survival



**You have a right to life, good food,
water, and to grow up healthy**

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



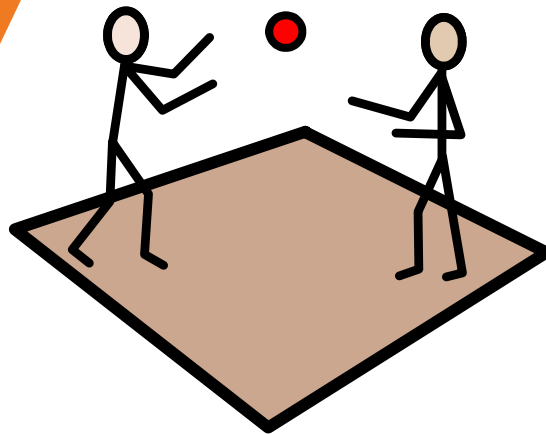
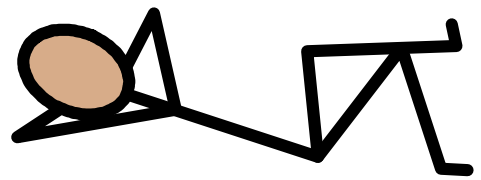
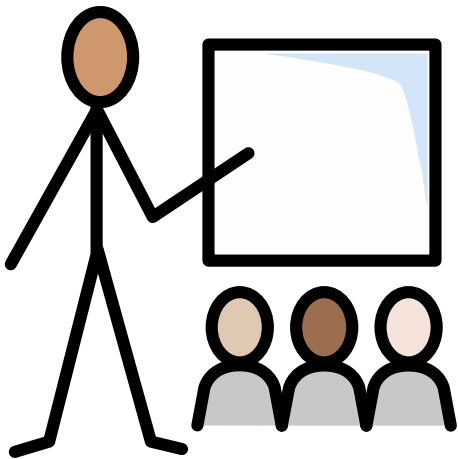
Development



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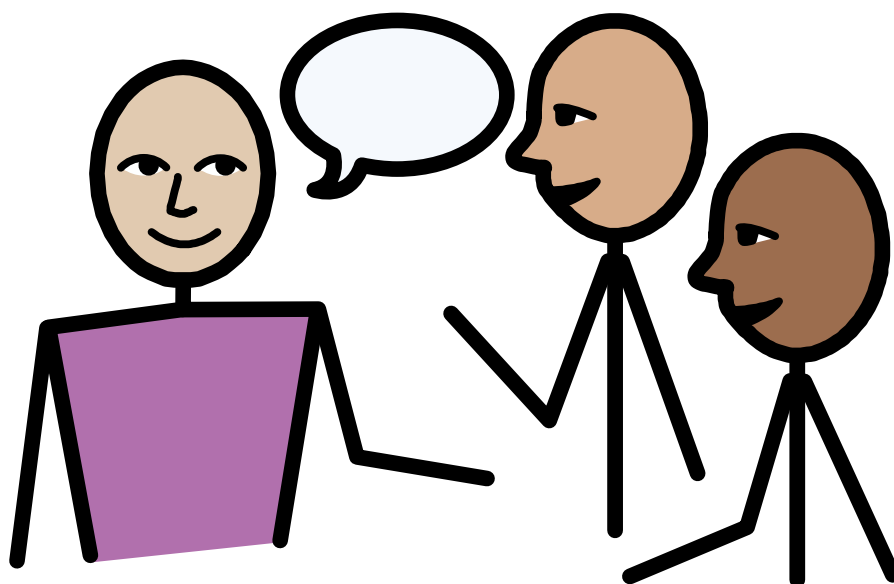


Development



**You have a right to an education
and time to relax and play**

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



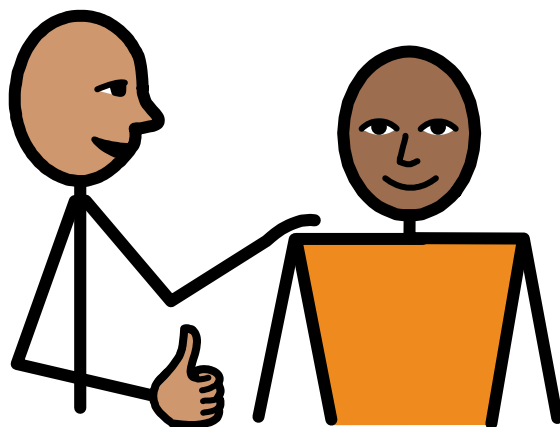
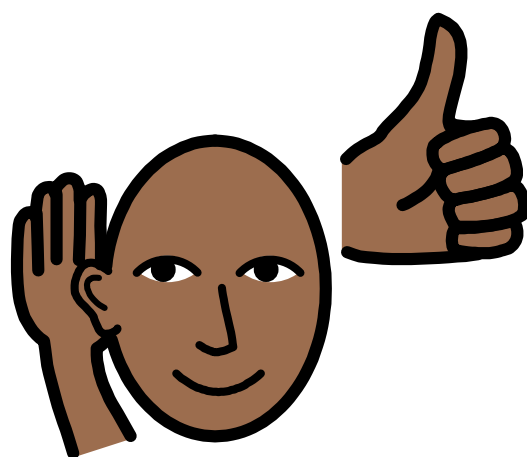
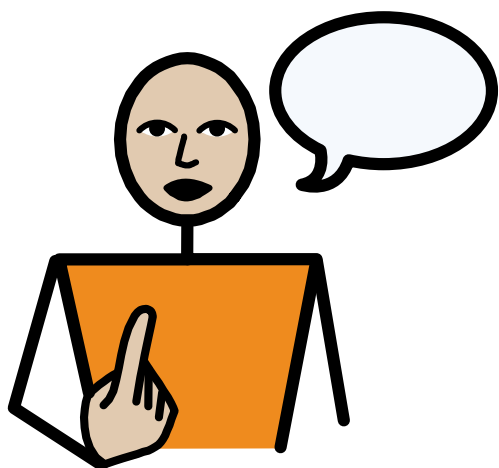
Participation



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Participation



You have a right to say how you feel,
be listened to, and taken seriously

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



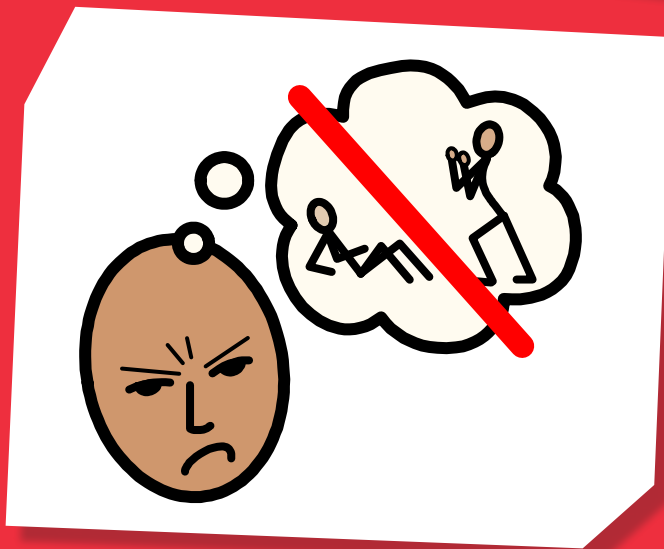
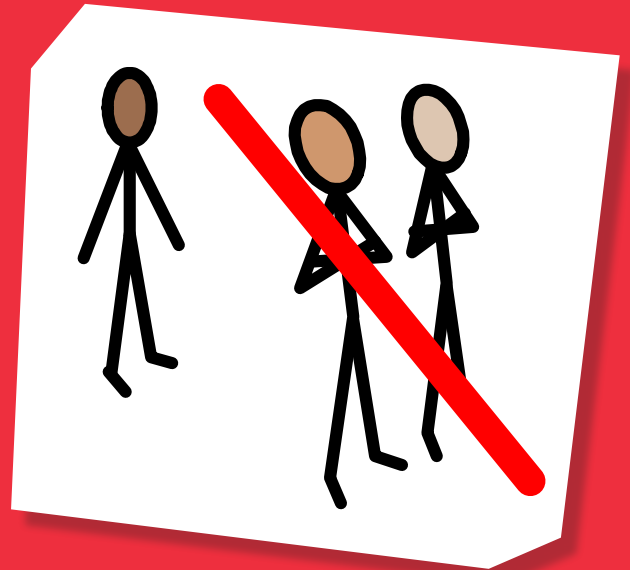
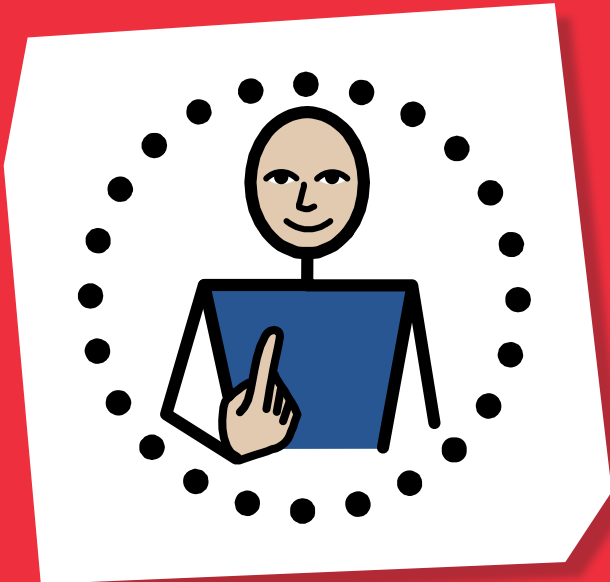
Protection



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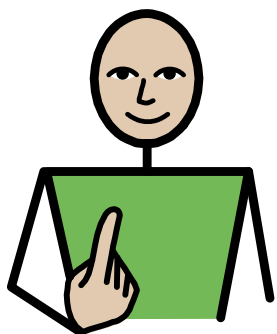


Protection

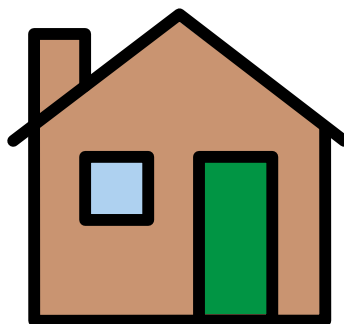


**You have a right to be treated well
and not be hurt by anyone**

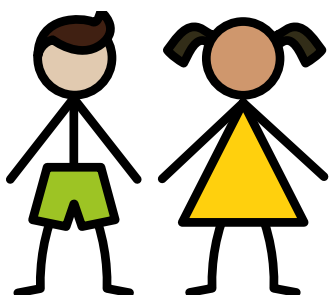
Glossary



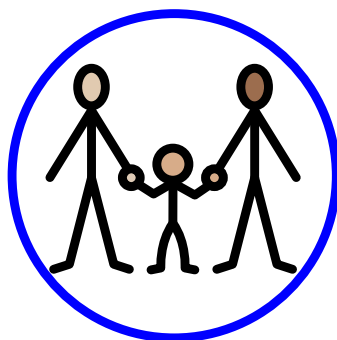
Me



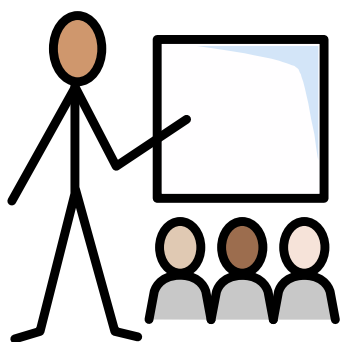
Home



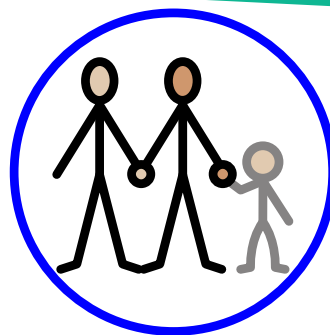
Children



Family



School



Parents

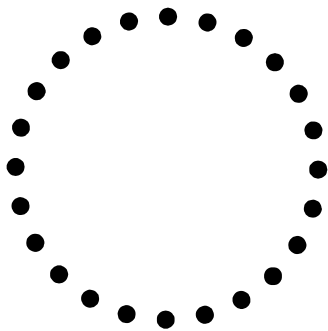
Glossary



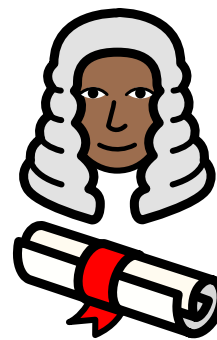
Government



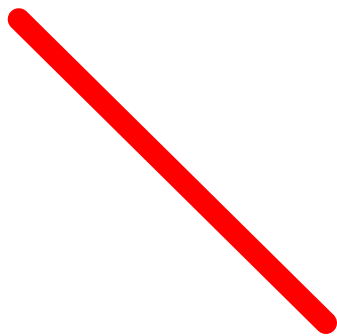
Country



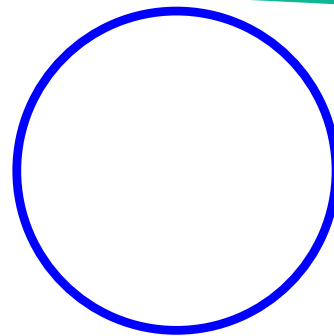
Protection



Law



No



My