

# Every Child has Rights.

You have rights to keep you **safe** and **healthy** and help you enjoy a **good life!**




The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out the rights of all children, aged 0 to 18 years, and the responsibilities of governments to ensure those rights are respected.

Children's rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and reach their potential.


In Aotearoa New Zealand, we consider the rights of children in the context of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and a child's connection with their family, whānau, hapū, iwi and communities.

The New Zealand Government signed up to the Children's Convention in 1993. This means the Government has agreed to promote, respect, protect and fulfill the rights of all children.

 <18  
1) Are you under 18? If yes, then all of these rights belong to you!


  
2) You have the right to be treated fairly all the time.

  
3) Adults have to do what is best for you.

  
4) The government has to do all it can to make sure your rights are respected and you know what they are.

  
5) The government has to respect the right of your family and whānau to support you to know and use your rights.

  
6) You have the right to survive and grow in a healthy way.


  
7) You have the right to a name and to belong to a country. You also have the right, as far as possible, to know and be cared for by your parents.

  
8) The government has to respect your right to a name, nationality and family.

  
9) You have the right to live with your parents and stay in contact with them if you are separated from one or both of them, so long as it is safe.

  
10) You have the right to see your family if they live in a different country.

  
11) You have the right to be protected from being taken out of the country illegally.

  
12) You have the right to have your views heard, considered and taken seriously by adults, when decisions are being made that affect you.

  
13) You have the right to find and share information and to express yourself in different ways.

  
14) You have the right to think and believe what you want and to practice your own religion.

  
15) You have the right to meet with friends and join in groups or clubs.

  
16) You have the right to privacy. People need to take extra care with information about you or your family.


  
17) You have the right to get information in lots of ways, so long as it is safe.


  
18) You have the right to be raised by your parents or family and whānau unless it is unsafe for them to care for you.


  
19) You have the right to be protected from being hurt or mistreated.


  
20) You have the right to special care and to live somewhere safe if you can't live with your parents.


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

  
22) If you are a refugee you have the right to special protection and help and you have the same rights as children who were born in New Zealand.


  
23) If you have a disability, you have the right to receive education and care so you can reach your full potential.

  
24) You have the right to be cared for if you are sick or injured. You have the right to clean water, healthy food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay healthy.


  
25) If you live away from your family, you have the right to have people come and check that you are safe and happy.

  
26) Your family or whānau have the right to financial help from the government if they are unable to provide for your needs.


  
27) You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and other basic needs.

  
28) You have the right to a good quality education and teachers and other adults at school must always respect you.


  
29) Your education should help you develop your personality, talents and abilities.

  
30) If you are Māori, as tangata whenua or if you belong to an ethnic or religious minority group, you have the right to use your language and practice your culture.

31) You have the right to relax and play and join in activities like sports and music.


  
32) If you work, you have the right to safe working conditions and to be paid fairly.

  
33 – 39) You have the right to be safe from all forms of violence, war, drugs, kidnapping, torture, abuse and cruel and harmful punishment.

  
40) You have the right to be treated fairly and to get help from someone like a lawyer if you break the law or are accused of breaking the law.

  
41) If the laws of New Zealand provide better protection of your rights than the Children's Convention, then those laws should apply.

  
42) You have the right to know your rights! Adults should know about these rights too and help you learn about them.

  
43 – 54) Adults and governments should work together to make sure that all children and young people's rights are respected.