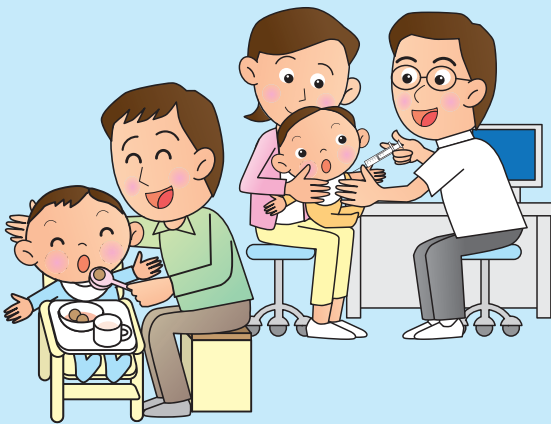


What are Children's Rights?

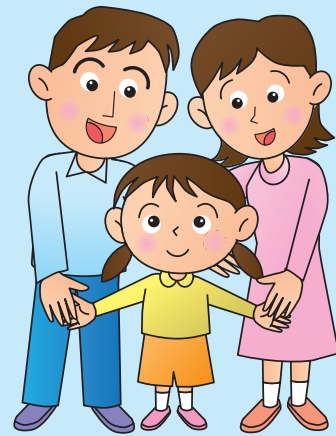
Have you ever heard of the 'Convention on the Rights of the Child'? It is a treaty that enshrines specific children's rights in international law. Unfortunately, many children in the world are suffering in dire conditions. Some are caught up in the atrocities of war, some are forced into hard labour, while others lose their lives to preventable diseases. The Convention seeks to protect those poor suffering children, as well as children all over the world. There are 54 articles in the Convention, and the basic tenets of the Convention are expressed in the following four general principles.

Right to life, survival, and development



Every child has the right to life and therefore access to medical care, education, and support for their daily lives, allowing them to develop their innate abilities and grow to their full potential.

Best interests of the child



All actions concerning a child must have what is best for that child as the primary consideration.

Right to express your opinion and participate



Children have the right to express their opinions on matters that concern them and to have these opinions given full consideration according to their age and maturity.

Non-discrimination



All children are guaranteed all the rights set forth in the Convention, regardless of the race, nationality, sex, opinion, disability, or economic status of the children themselves or their parents.

Brief introduction of the Convention

Article 1: Definition of a Child A child refers to everyone under the age of 18.

Article 2: Non-discrimination The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, no matter their country, gender, language, religion, opinion, disability, financial status, family background or any other status.

Article 3: Best Interests of the Child The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

Article 6: Right to Life, Survival & Development Every child has the right to live and develop to their full potential.

Article 9: Right not to Be Separated From Parents Children have the right not to be separated from their parents against their will. Separation from their parents may be permissible in the case that it is deemed what is best for the child, in which case he or she may maintain contact with the parents.

Article 12: Right to Have Views Every child has the right to freely express their views on all matters affecting them, and their views should be considered and taken seriously in accordance with their age and maturity.

Article 16: Right to Privacy Every child has the right to privacy and protection against unlawful interference of their privacy involving family, home, and channels of communication. They also have the right to protection from attacks on their reputation.

Article 19: Right of Protection Against All Forms of Violence and Abuse Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment while under the care of their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 23: Children with Disabilities A child with any form of disability has the right to live with dignity, be independent, and participate in the community with support through education, training, and special care.

Article 28: Right to Education Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be compulsory and secondary education must be accessible to all. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights.

Article 31: Right to Leisure and Play Every child has the right to relax, play, and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

Source: 'Convention on the Rights of the Child: Card Book', published by the Japan Committee for UNICEF, and the official website of the Japan Committee for UNICEF

For more information:

Everyone, you must be aware of your rights as a child. Similarly, you must be aware that other children also have the same rights as you. Even though every individual is different, it is important to remember that everyone has the same basic human rights. In the future when you grow up, it will be your turn to protect the rights of other children. For more information, check the following websites:

'Convention on the Rights of the Child', from the official website of the Japan Committee for UNICEF

<https://www.unicef.or.jp/kodomo/kenri/>

Multilingual versions of the Convention

<https://boes.org/multilingual/>

* Japan ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on May 22nd, 1994

Shizuoka Prefecture values the opinions of children and young people.