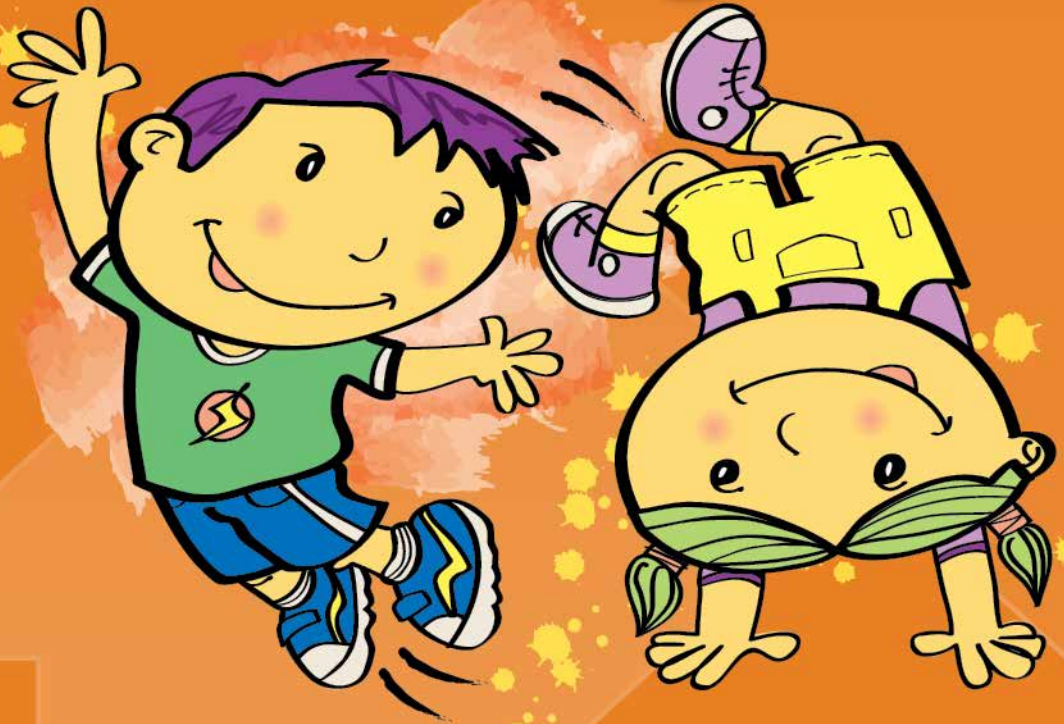


kids' rights



Charter of Rights for children in care



This book belongs to

This is a book about the Charter of Rights for children in care.

If you are a child in care, this book is for you.

The rights that you have are here to protect you,
so you're safe and happy in everything you do.

What is a Charter of Rights?

A Charter of Rights is a list of things written by the government about how people should be treated. Children have rights too. There is a Charter of Rights for children in care.

The Charter of Rights for children in care is a list of things to help keep you safe and happy. All grown-ups should care for you in the right way, and make decisions that help keep you safe and happy. This means that when grown-ups read the list, they have to do what it says. They cannot ignore it.

This book was written to help you understand what your rights are as a child in care.

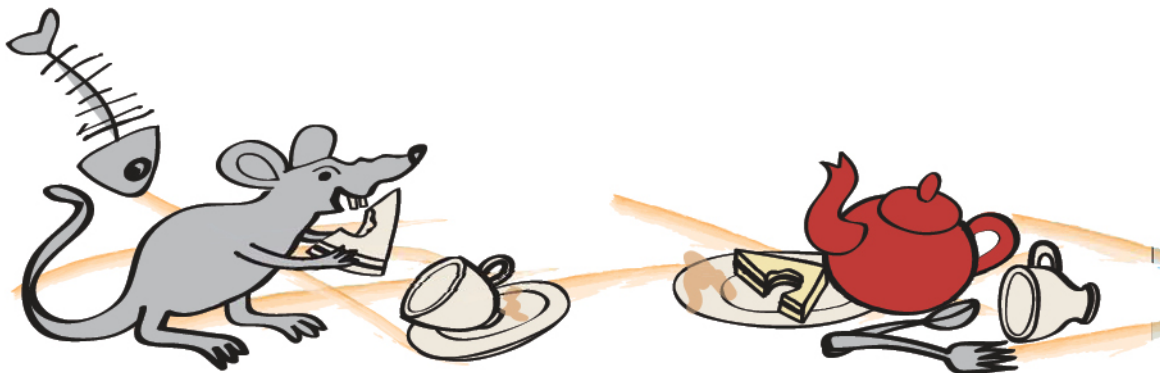
As you get older, you will be able to make more decisions for yourself.

Once upon a time (when kids didn't have rights),
poor Cinderella swept floors late at night.

Her mean stepsisters wouldn't take her to the ball,
she wasn't allowed any playtime at all.

On the night of the ball she was home washing dishes,
when her fairy godmother gave her three wishes.

But all of that happened such a long time ago,
things are different now and you need to know...








Boys and girls have rights, and I'll tell them to you.
If you forget what they are, here's what you should do.

Ask your carer, your worker or just have a look
for the phone numbers on the back of this book.





You have a right to live in a safe, caring place
with friendly grown-ups who give you some space
to just be yourself, and if you are sad —
to ask for some help so you don't feel so bad.





You have a right to ask after your father and mother and if in your family you have sisters and brothers.

You can ask about them, and perhaps you can see them and talk on the phone or meet them some weekends.

You may have a say in when you might meet, and grown-ups will listen most times that you speak.

If you're unhappy at school or not feeling well, the grown-ups who care for you are the ones you should tell.



You also have rights to be private you see,
you can hide your best toy, you can dress privately.

If you want to be quiet you can sit on your bed,
any thoughts that you have can stay in your head.

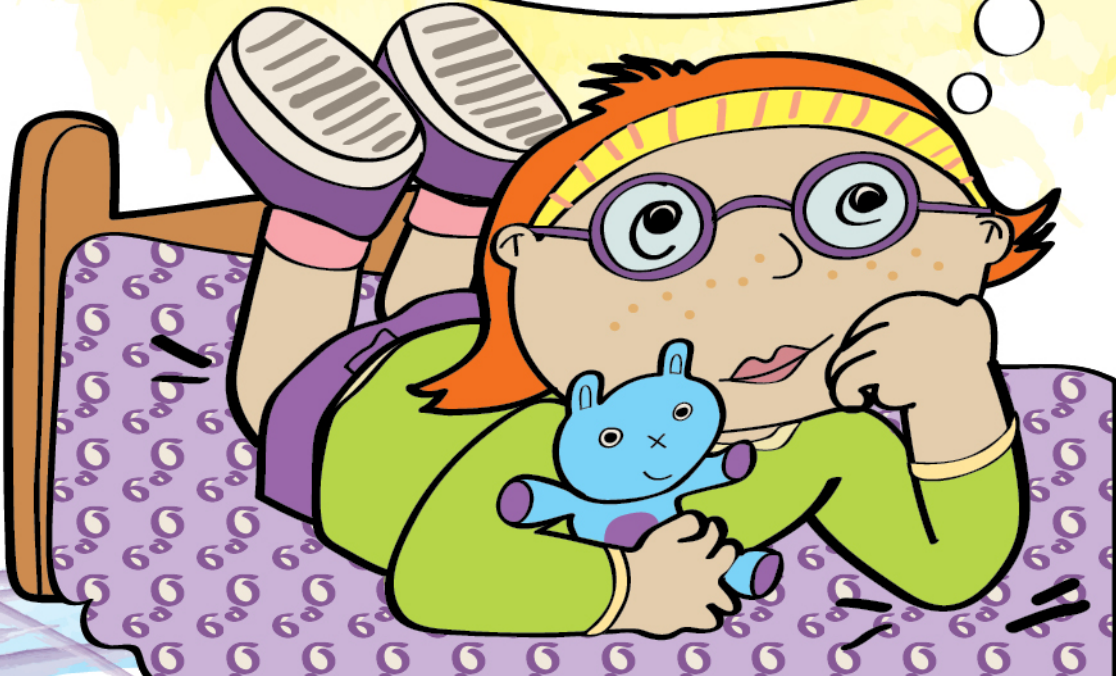
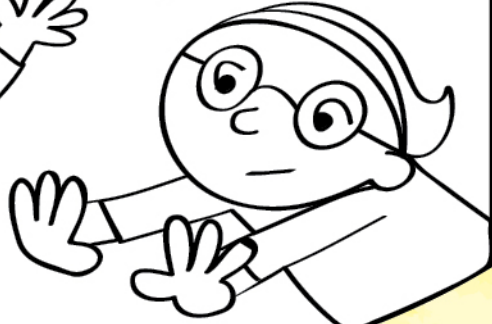
Most times it's good to share your thoughts (that is true),
like, "I don't want a hug" or, "I hate eating stew".

But if visitors ask where your family is, well...
you can say that is private and you don't have to tell.



YES

NO



Your carers and worker can give you some answers to questions like:

Why do I live away from my parents?

Why am I in care?

Where are mum and dad now?

Where will I be living next year?





You deserve to be happy and looked after with care,
everyone needs someone at times to be there.

To talk to and know you've been heard when you speak,
'cos you're one special kid, you're precious and unique!

Charter of Rights for a child in care

The Charter of Rights under the *Child Protection Act 1999*.

You have the right to know about your rights!

You can ask a grown-up to look them up and read them to you.

Grown-ups should know about your rights and help you to learn about them too. For example, you have a right to:

1. be treated fairly no matter what
2. have a say about decisions affecting you
3. live and grow up healthily
4. have people do what is best for you
5. know who you are and where you come from
6. believe what you want
7. privacy
8. find out information and express yourself
9. be safe no matter where you are
10. be cared for and have a home
11. education, play and cultural activities
12. help and protection if you need it.



Want to know more?

If you want to know more about your rights or you have some questions, don't forget to first ask your carer or child safety worker. They are there to help you.

If you want to connect with other children in care, freecall the CREATE Foundation on **1800 655 105** or email them on **create@create.org.au**. You can also go to their website at **www.create.org.au**

CREATE Foundation is about you. They connect and empower children and young people in care. CREATE Foundation provides fun activities and experiences organised by kids like you — kids in care.

If you need more help, you can find it here:

Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs

Freecall 1800 811 810

Kids Help Line

Freecall 1800 55 1800

Office of the Public Guardian

Phone: 1300 653 187

Email: publicguardian@publicguardian.qld.gov.au

SMS: 0418 740 186

All children have a right to be looked after in a safe and caring way. If this is not happening for you, call Child Safety on **1800 811 810** or go to www.cyjma.qld.gov.au

