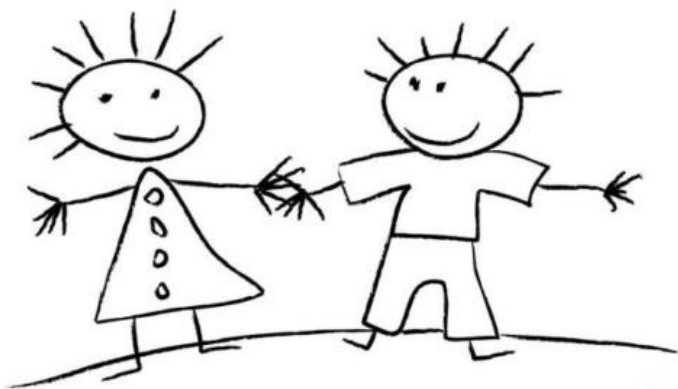


colour in Your Rights and Responsibilities



MOLO SONGOLOLO

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF ALL CHILDREN

The Human Rights of Children in South Africa

In South Africa there are many laws that tell us how children should be treated and protected. These laws protect the Human Rights of children.

What are Human Rights?

Human Rights are the basic rights that everyone has, simply because we are human beings. Human Rights are not earned and they are not something that anyone gives you. You have them the moment you are born. Nobody can take them away.

Human Rights protect our basic (most important) needs such as a home, healthy food and clean drinking water. When people enjoy human rights they are treated equally and fairly. Rights tell us what are right and fair to do and what is wrong and unfair.

Special Rights for Children

Because children are special and in need of care as they grow up, they have special needs. Therefor children also have special Human Rights. In South Africa, the Human Rights of Children are written in three special documents.

The most important document is the highest law of our country, the **Constitution of the Republic of South Africa**. In the constitution is a special section on the Human Rights of children in South Africa.

The other two documents are the **Children's Charter of South Africa** and the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

Rights and Responsibilities

It is the duty of the government, parents, guardians and the community to see to it that children enjoy their human rights. But children also have to do their part.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa ,

On 8 May 1996, the New Constitution of the Republic of South Africa came into effect. It has a special section, the Bill of Rights, that gives a list of Human Rights for all, including children.

It is one of the few constitutions in the world that protects the rights of people to be free from all forms of discrimination.

Section 28 of the Bill of Rights

Besides all the other Human Rights in the Bill of Rights, children under the age of 18 also have special rights. These include the right

- to a name and nationality from birth
- to family care or other care if a child is removed from its family
- to food, shelter and health care
- not to be abused or neglected

- not to be forced to work or given work which is not suitable for a child
- not to be detained unless absolutely necessary. In such a case, the child must be kept separate from adults
- to be given a lawyer in a court case if necessary
- not to be used in a war, but to be protected during a war

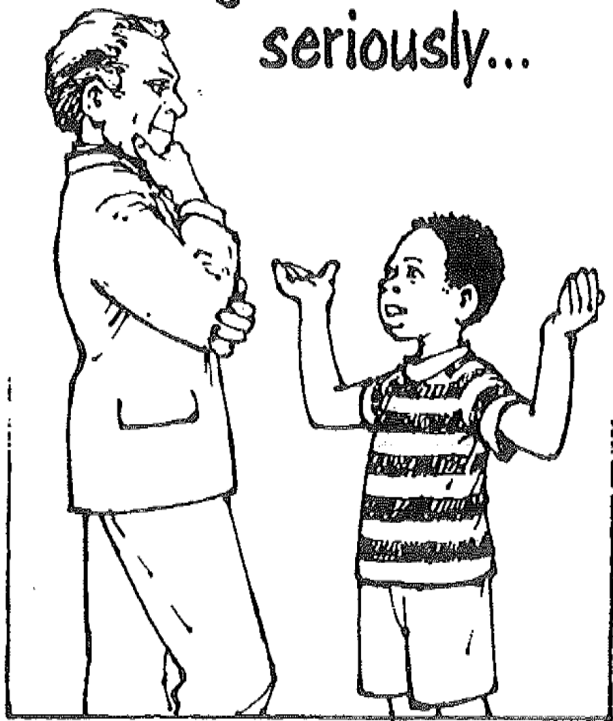
It also says that the child's best interest is most important in all matters concerning the child.

Remember: Children also have all the other Human Rights in the Bill of Right such as the right to education, language, culture and religion. Children also have a right to information, freedom of expression, human dignity and equality.



Read about the South African Children's Charter and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the back of your booklet

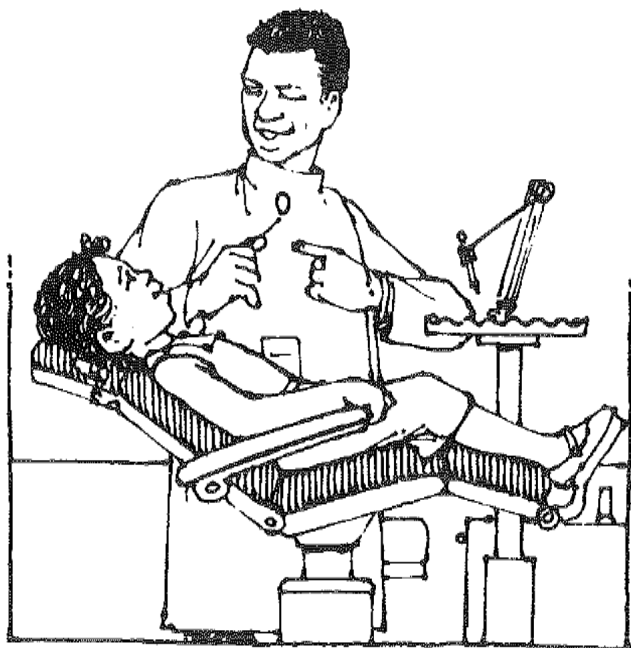
Children have
the right to be taken
seriously...



...and the
responsibility to
listen to others.



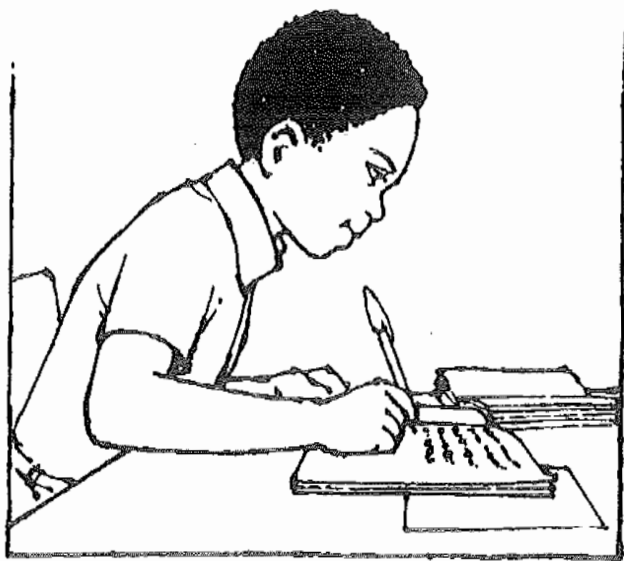
Children have
the right to quality
medical care...



...and the
responsibility to take
care of themselves.



Children have the
right to a good
education...



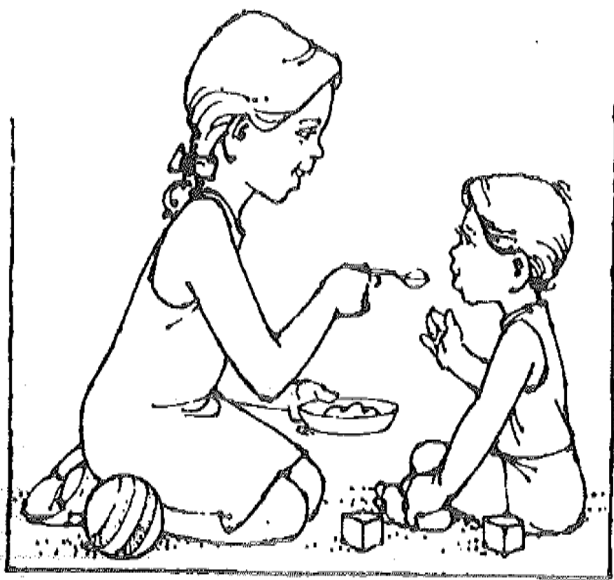
...and the
responsibility to study
and respect
their teachers.



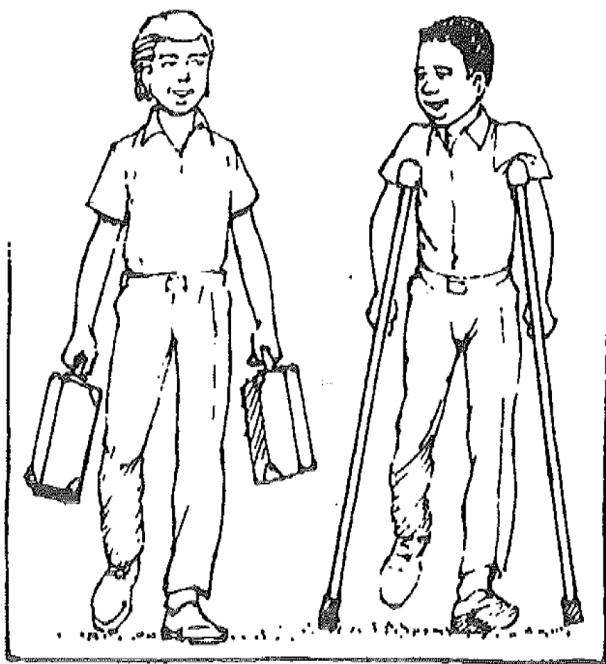
Children have the
right to be loved and
protected from harm...



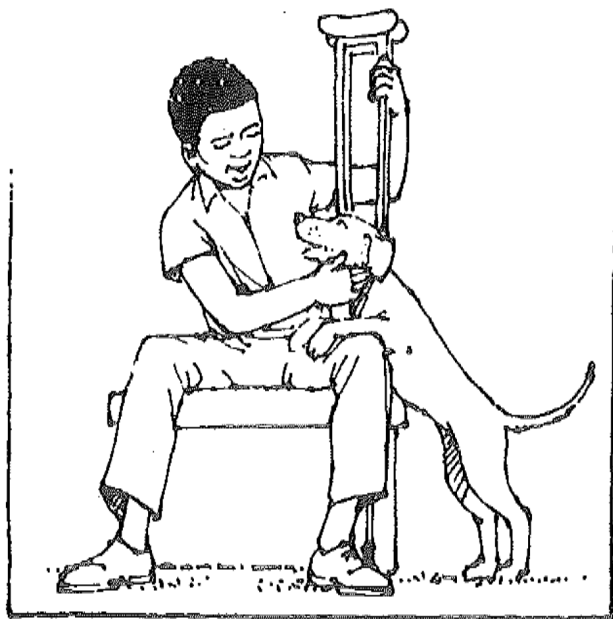
...and the
responsibility to show
others love and caring.



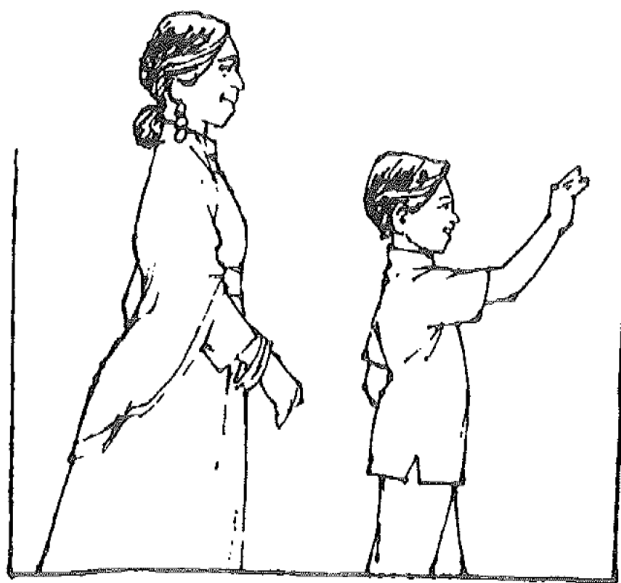
Children have the
right to get special care
for special needs...



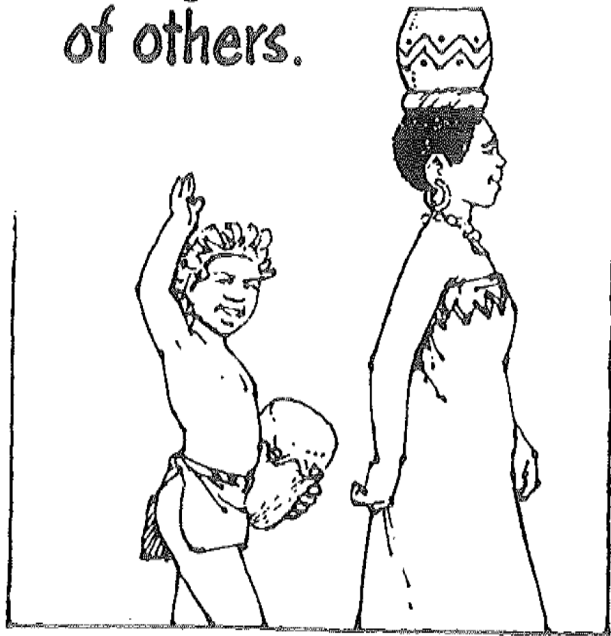
...and the
responsibility to be the
best people they can be.



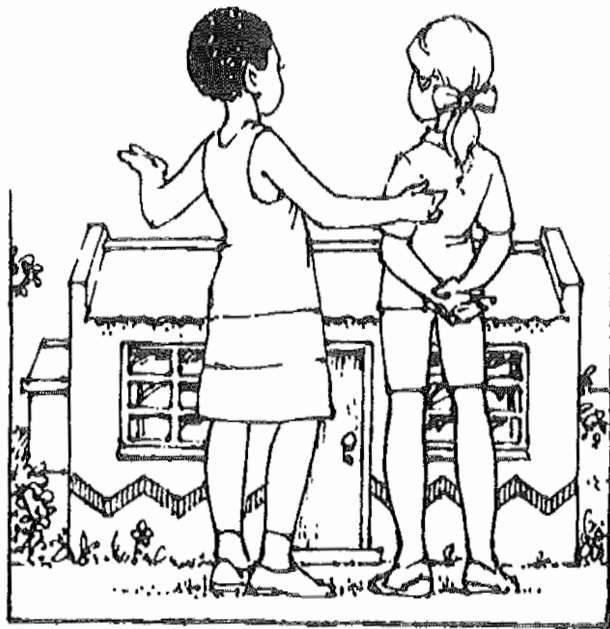
Children have the
right to be proud of their
heritage and beliefs...



...and the
responsibility to respect
the origins and beliefs
of others.



Children have the
right to a safe and
comfortable home...



...and the
responsibility to keep it
neat and clean.



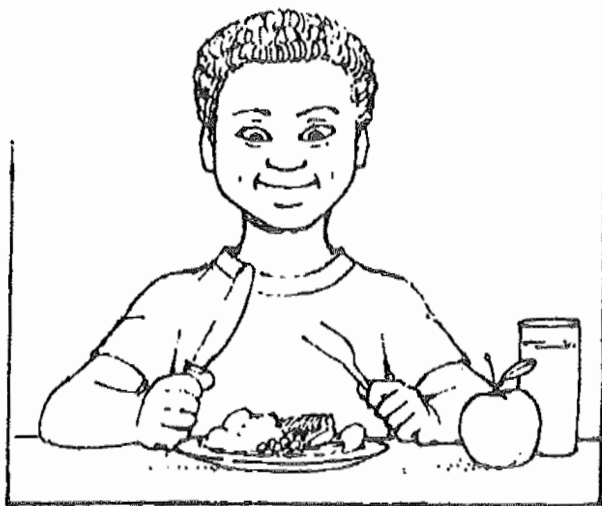
Children have the
right to make
mistakes...



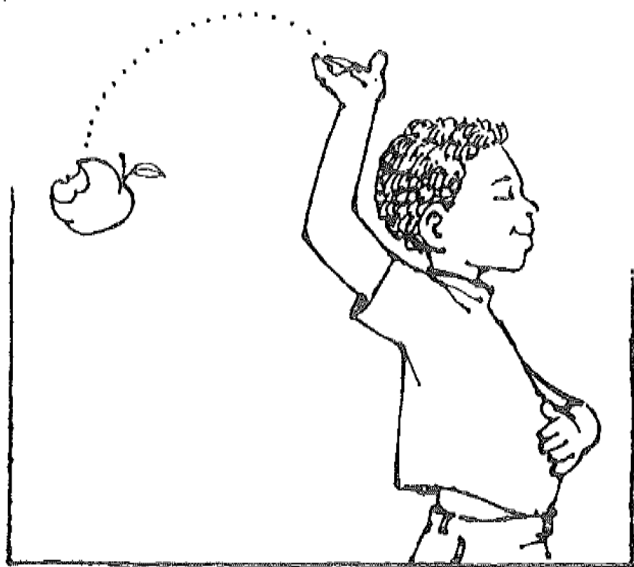
...and the
responsibility to learn
from these mistakes.



Children have the
right to be well fed...



...and the
responsibility not to
waste food.



The Children's Charter of South Africa

The Children's Charter of South Africa is a list of demands drawn up by South African children.

The charter was drawn up at a Summit on the Rights of Children in South Africa in 1992. More than 200 boys and girls, including children with disabilities and children living on the street, met at Somerset West near Cape Town. Molo Songololo hosted the summit so that children could discuss their needs and problems. At the end, on 1 June, they wrote and adopted the Children's Charter of South Africa.

The charter states what must be done to protect children and how they must be treated. Children used the charter to campaign for their rights to be included in the constitution of South Africa.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is another document that contains Human Rights for children. It is like a book and has two parts. Part 1 gives a list of 41 rights that children all over the world are entitled to.

The United Nations (UN) adopted the Convention in 1989. The United Nations is like a club of governments from different countries. More than 170 countries around the world are members of the United Nations.

On 16 June 1995, then President Nelson Mandela, on behalf of the South African government, accepted and signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This means that the government has agreed to respect and fulfil all of the rights in the Convention.

The government agreed to...

Provide children with proper health care, a good education, skills to learn and develop, love and security, time for play and recreation and proper protection.

Protect children from child labour and slavery, sexual abuse and abduction, abuse and neglect, drugs and harmful substances, detention and torture, being taken away from their families and harmful practices to their health

Ensure special care for disabled children, homeless children, children without families, children abused and neglected, children in violence and war.

Allow children to practice religion, express their own views on matters affecting them, be properly informed about the world around them, take part in cultural activities and mix with other children.

Support the family by ensuring a fair living standard, promoting child-care and respecting its responsibilities and duties

Protect Your Rights

These rights are there for you and for all other children. Make sure that you know your rights.

When you need help contact...

Molo Songololo

Tel: 021 4485421

Email: info@molo.org.za

www.molosongololo.org

Atlantis: Tel: 071 819 3275

Delft: Tel: 071 282 4694

Beaufort West: 079 406 1760

South African Human Rights Commission

Tel: 021 426 2277

TollFree: 0800 222 618

Email: info@sahrc.org.za

www.sahrc.org.za

wcfrontline@sahrc.org.za

Childline

0800 123 123

Lifeline

021 461 1113

Safeline

021 638 4149

National Corona Virus Tollfree

0800 029 999



Molo Songololo
Physical Address: 46 Trill Road, Observatory 7925
Cape Town, South Africa

Tel: 021 448 5421
Email: info@molo.org.za
www.molosongololo.org