children's rights
Children's rights are fundamental rights that belong to every person under the age of eighteen. All these rights are equally important. They cannot be taken away under any circumstances. Every child should be treated equally.

Hello! I am Professor Penguin!

I'm going to tell you about your rights as Children. Did you now that the law gives you some rights? Which means, that the law takes care of your interests and no one can take these rights away!
but first...

Let me introduce you to my friends!

My friends, Buddy Bear, Major Munky and Officer Owl have something important to tell you about your rights!
why do we have rights?

Rights are important because they protect our right to live with dignity, freedom and security. It also helps protect us from violence and abuse.

Rights creates mutual respect among people. It encourages responsibility to ensure that the rights of others are not violated.
what rights do you have?

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, an international treaty, tells us what rights children have. The treaty says we have civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. This treaty was adopted by the United Nations on November 20, 1989.

There are over fifty articles in the document, each outlining one human right. Let's look at some of them!
Article 1: Definition of a child:
Until you are eighteen, you are considered a child and have all the rights in this convention.

Article 2: Freedom from discrimination
You have all human rights no matter what your race, skin colour, sex, language, religion, opinions, family background, social or economic status, birth or nationality.

Article 3: A child's best interests
All actions and decisions that affect children should be based on what is best for you or any child.

Article 4: Enjoying all rights in the Convention
Governments should make these rights available to you and all children.
Article 5: Parental Guidance
Your family has a responsibility to guide you, so that as you grow, you learn to use your rights properly.

Article 6: Right to Life
You have the right to live and grow well. Governments should ensure that you survive and develop healthily.

Article 7: Birth, Name, Nationality
You have the right to have your birth legally registered, to have a name and nationality and to know and to be cared for by your parents.

Article 8: Your Identity
Governments should respect your right to a name, a nationality and family ties.
**Article 9: Separation from Parents**
You should not be separated from your parents unless it is for your own good. If your parents have separated, you have the right to stay in contact with both of them unless this might hurt you.

**Article 10: Family Reunification**
If your parents live in different countries, you should be allowed to move between those countries so that you can stay in contact with your parents or get back together as a family.

**Article 11: No illegal transfer**
Governments must take steps to stop you being taken out of their own country illegally.

**Article 12: Respect for a child's opinion**
When adults are making decisions that affect you, you have the right to say freely what you think should happen and to have your opinions taken into account.
**Article 13: Freedom of Expression**
You have the right to seek, get and share information in all forms (e.g. through writing, art, television, radio and the Internet) as long as the information is not damaging to you or to others.

**Article 14: Freedom of Thought**
You have the right to think and believe what you want and to practise your religion as long as you do not stop other people from enjoying their rights. Your parents should guide you on these matters.

**Article 15: Freedom of Association**
You have the right to meet and to join groups and organisations with other children as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

**Article 16: Your Privacy**
You have a right to privacy. No-one should harm your good name, enter your house, open your letters and emails or bother you or your family without a good reason.
Article 17: Access to Information
You have the right to reliable information from many sources, including books, newspapers and magazines, television, radio and internet. Information should be beneficial and understandable.

Article 18: Parents Responsibilities
Both your parents share responsibility for bringing you up and should always consider what is best for you. Governments should provide services to help parents, especially if both parents work.

Article 19: Protection from Violence
Governments should ensure that you are properly cared for and protect you from violence, abuse and neglect by your parents or anyone else who looks after you.

Article 20: Alternative Care
If parents and family cannot care for you properly, then you must be looked after by people who respect your religion, traditions and language.
Article 21: Adoption
If you are adopted, the first concern must be what is best for you, whether you are adopted in your birth country or if you are taken to live in another country.

Article 22: Refugees
If you have come to a new country because your home country was unsafe, you have a right to protection and support. You have the same rights as children born in that country.

Article 23: Disabled Children
If you have any kind of disability, you should have special care, support and education so that you can lead a full and independent life and participate in the community to the best of your ability.

Article 24: Healthcare
You have the right to good quality health-care, clean water, nutritious food, a clean environment and health education so that you can stay healthy.
Article 25: Review
If you are looked after by local authorities or institutions rather than by your parents, you should have your situation reviewed regularly to make sure you have good care and treatment.

Article 26: Social Security
The society in which you live should provide you with benefits of social security that help you develop and live in good conditions.

Article 27: Standard of Living
You should live in good conditions that help you develop physically, mentally, spiritually, morally and socially. The Government should help families who cannot afford to provide this.

Article 28: Right to Education
You have a right to education. Discipline in schools should respect your human dignity. Primary education should be free and required. Rich countries should help poorer countries achieve this.
Article 29: Aims of Education
Education should develop your personality, talents and mental and physical skills to the fullest. It should prepare you for life and encourage you to respect your parents and your own and other nations and cultures.

Article 30: Minorities
You have a right to learn and use the traditions, religion and language of your family, whether or not these are shared by most people in your country.

Article 31: Leisure, Play and Culture
You have a right to relax and play and to join in a wide range of recreational and cultural activities.

Article 32: Child Labour
The government should protect you from work that is dangerous to your health or development, that interferes with your education or that might lead people to take advantage of you.
Article 33: Children and Drug Abuse
The Government should provide ways of protecting you from using, producing or distributing dangerous drugs.

Article 34: Protection from Sexual Abuse
The government should protect you from sexual abuse.

Article 35: Protection from trafficking
The government should make sure that you are not kidnapped, sold or taken to other countries to be exploited.

Article 36: Protection from exploitation
You should be protected from any activities that could harm your development and well-being.
Article 37: Protection from Torture
If you break the law, you should not be treated cruelly or put in prison with adults and should be able to stay in contact with your family.

Article 38: Protection of children in war
If you are under fifteen, governments should not allow you to join the army or take any direct part in warfare. Children in war zones should receive special protection.

Article 39: Rehabilitation of Victims
If you were neglected, tortured or abused, were a victim of exploitation and warfare, or were put in prison, you should receive special help.

Article 40: Juvenile Justice
If you are accused of breaking the law, you must be treated in a way that respects your dignity. You should receive legal help and only be given a prison sentences for the most serious crimes.
References:
United Nations
The Convention on the Rights of the Child