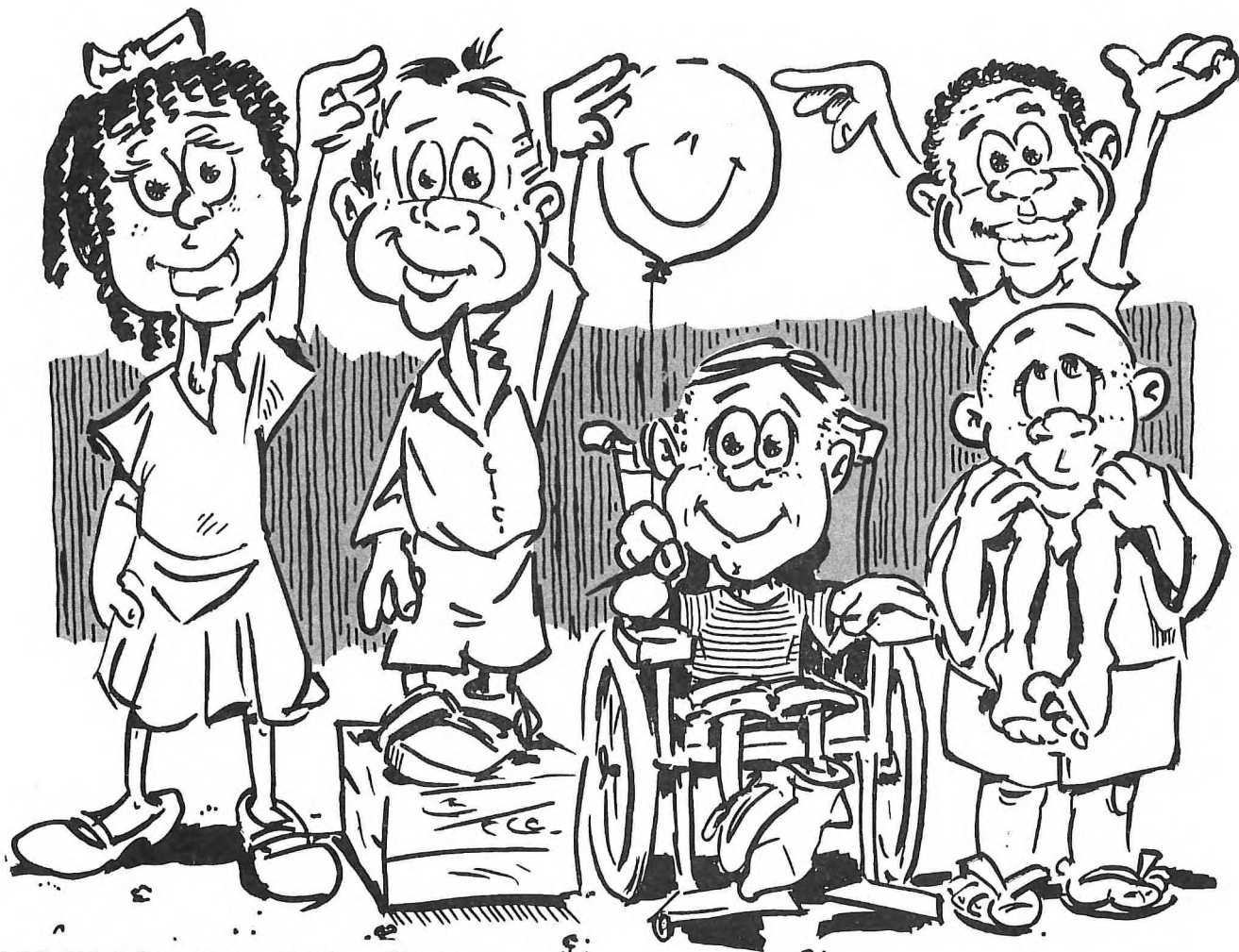
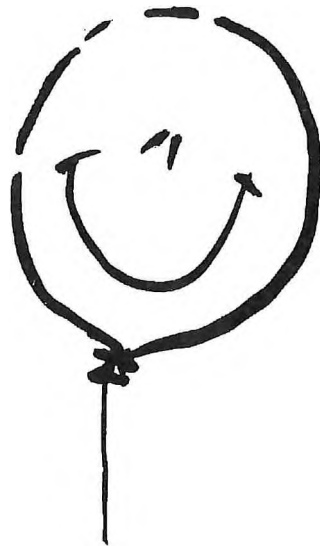


your rights as a  
child



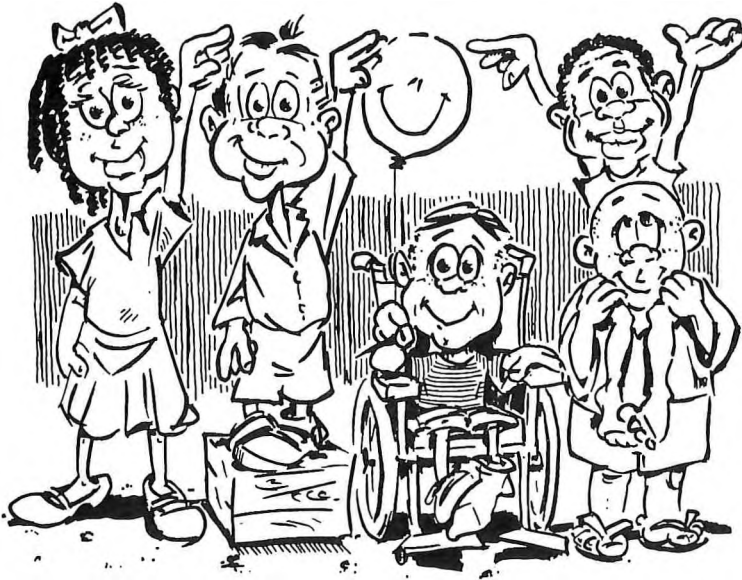
The United Nations, an organization established after the Second World War, is made up of nearly all the countries in the world. In a meeting held in November 1989, all the members of the United Nations agreed that children have their own special rights. This is called "The Convention on the Rights of the Child".

Belize was one of the first countries in the world to approve the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This means that the Belize government agreed to pass laws to make sure children's rights are protected. The Convention has 54 Articles or sections. Some of the main rights of children stated in the Convention are listed and explained in this leaflet.



## The right to equality

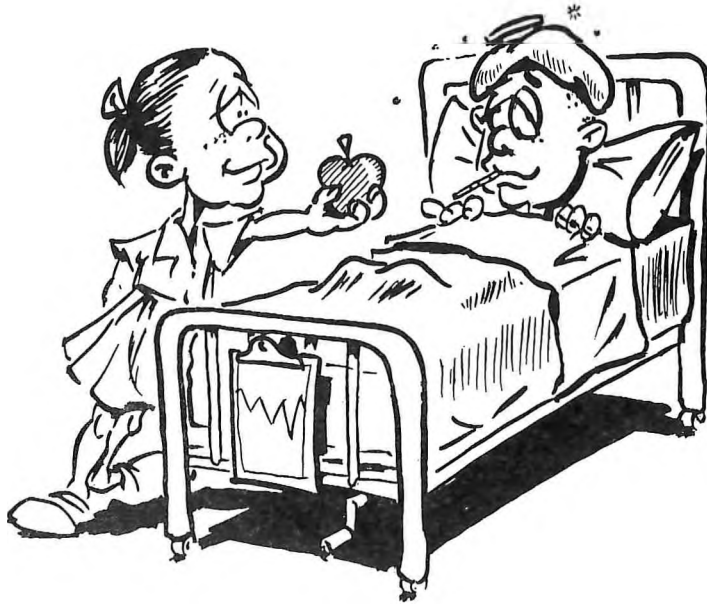
All children should be treated equally, regardless of either their own or their parents' race, colour, nationality, religion, political opinion, sex, ownership of property or physical or mental disability. You have the right to be treated just like everyone else and not to be discriminated against for any reason.



## The right to an identity

Every child has a right to a name and a nationality and - as far as possible - to know and be cared for by his or her parents. You have the right to know who you are and where you come from.





## The right to health

Every child has the right to healthy mental and physical development. That means having living conditions which allow you to develop in good health as well as being able to get medical treatment from a hospital or doctor if you need it.



## The right to protection

Governments have a duty to protect children from physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, and from neglect and exploitation. You have a right to live in safety and without fear - and without anyone taking advantage of you because you are a child.



## The right to play

All children should have time and space for play, to take part in recreational and cultural activities and artistic life.



## The right to have basic needs provided

Adequate food, housing, sanitation and medical care are a basic need of every person, but children have a special right to have these needs provided for them.



## The right to be loved

Every child has a right to receive love, understanding and care.



## The right to special care

Children with disabilities have a right to receive special care and education to allow them to participate fully in society.



## The right to education

All the countries which have signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child have agreed to provide free Primary School education for all children - and to make attendance compulsory. That means parents have to make sure that every child goes to school and has an opportunity to learn.



## The right to a voice

Every child capable of forming his or her own opinions about their own lives and what should happen to them should get the opportunity to say what their views are. A child's own views should be given more importance as they grow older. This means that - whenever possible - you should be asked about and be able to give your opinion on decisions which affect you.

Perhaps the most important idea behind all the 54 Articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the one in Article Three: that, in all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child should be a major consideration. That means that in all decisions which affect you as a child, one of the most important things to consider is what is best for you - not just what is best for your parents or other adults!



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