

UNDERSTANDING MY BASIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS A CHILD

Know your Rights



Foreword

The Child friendly version of the Child Right Law (CRL) is a strategic document specifically developed by Benue State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in collaboration with SMILE Project led by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and funded by USAID to strengthen the Child Protection System by making the Law more child friendly because children need to relate with the Law in a more friendly manner which emphasises that the well-being of children in any nation is extremely important as successful human capital development of the nation.

This document examines the structure and functions of the CRL and was developed with the understanding that children need to relate with the Law. The simplification of the content of the CRL through pictorial illustrations makes it more user friendly for children as they can easily relate to the content thereby making the understanding of the Law easier.

The benefit of this document is to strengthen child participation and understanding of the Law to support child protection, case management, referral process and service delivery in Benue State. We hope that this document will help our children and their caregivers as well as other stakeholders with better understanding and application of the Benue State Child Rights Law (2008) which will further support the agenda of the Benue State Government on Child development as captured by the Vision of this administration led by His Excellency Dr. Samuel Ortom and supported by the mother of the State, Her Excellency Dr. Mrs Eunice E. Ortom. I therefore encourage stakeholders especially NGO's, FBO's, CBO's line Ministries and agencies as well as children and their caregivers to use this document as a valuable resource to Child Protection System strengthening. Lastly, we thank the SMILE team led by the State Coordinator Mr. Godwin Agia and Maryann Obidike as well as the graphic consultant from ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) for the support and efforts invested in the production of this document.



Barr. Mrs. Mwuese Mnyim
Hon. Commissioner
Benue State Ministry of Women Affairs

Acknowledgement



The development of the child friendly version of the Benue state Child Rights Law (2008) is an innovation which is aimed at strengthening the child protection system in the state; this is also in line with some of the gaps identified during the child protection system mapping conducted in 2014. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, with the support of Strengthening Mechanism for Improving Livelihoods and household Empowerment (SMILE) project and other key stakeholders have been working tirelessly to strengthen the child protection system in Benue State and this is a key development to increase child participation.

We extend our appreciation to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for funding the Sustainable Mechanisms for Improving Livelihoods and Household Empowerment (SMILE). The project staffs from ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) has been very supportive in strengthening the technical and organisational capacity of the Ministry of Women Affairs in coordinating and monitoring of Vulnerable Children's Response in Benue State and we believe that this document will enable children understand their rights as enshrine in the Benue state Child Rights Law(2008)

In conclusion, I truly appreciate the contributions of the Honourable Commissioner, Barrister Mrs. Mwuese Mnyim, Directors and all other staff of the Ministry for their hard work and commitment in the production of this document. I particularly wish to thank His Excellency and her Excellency Dr and Dr. Mrs. Ortom for supporting the course of children in Benue state. Finally, I thank everyone who contributed to the successful completion of this document and may God continue to bless you as you support the course of children.

Mrs. Ann Mwuese Yaji
Director Department of Child Development
Benue State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
July 2016



DEAR CHILDREN,


Here are some things you need to know:

A **CHILD** is a person below the age of 18.

PARENTS are people who give birth to or adopt a child and takes care of him/her.

Your father and your mother are your parents.

GUARDIANS are care-givers who take care of children that are not theirs.



Your **RIGHTS** are what you deserve no matter who or where you are.

The **CHILD'S RIGHT ACT** is a document that promotes and protects the rights of the Nigerian child.

Your rights fall under the following categories;

Survival Rights

Protection Rights

Development Rights

Participation Rights

SURVIVAL RIGHTS

My survival right is to live a healthy life and grow into a strong and capable adult.

My survival rights include:

Right to life.

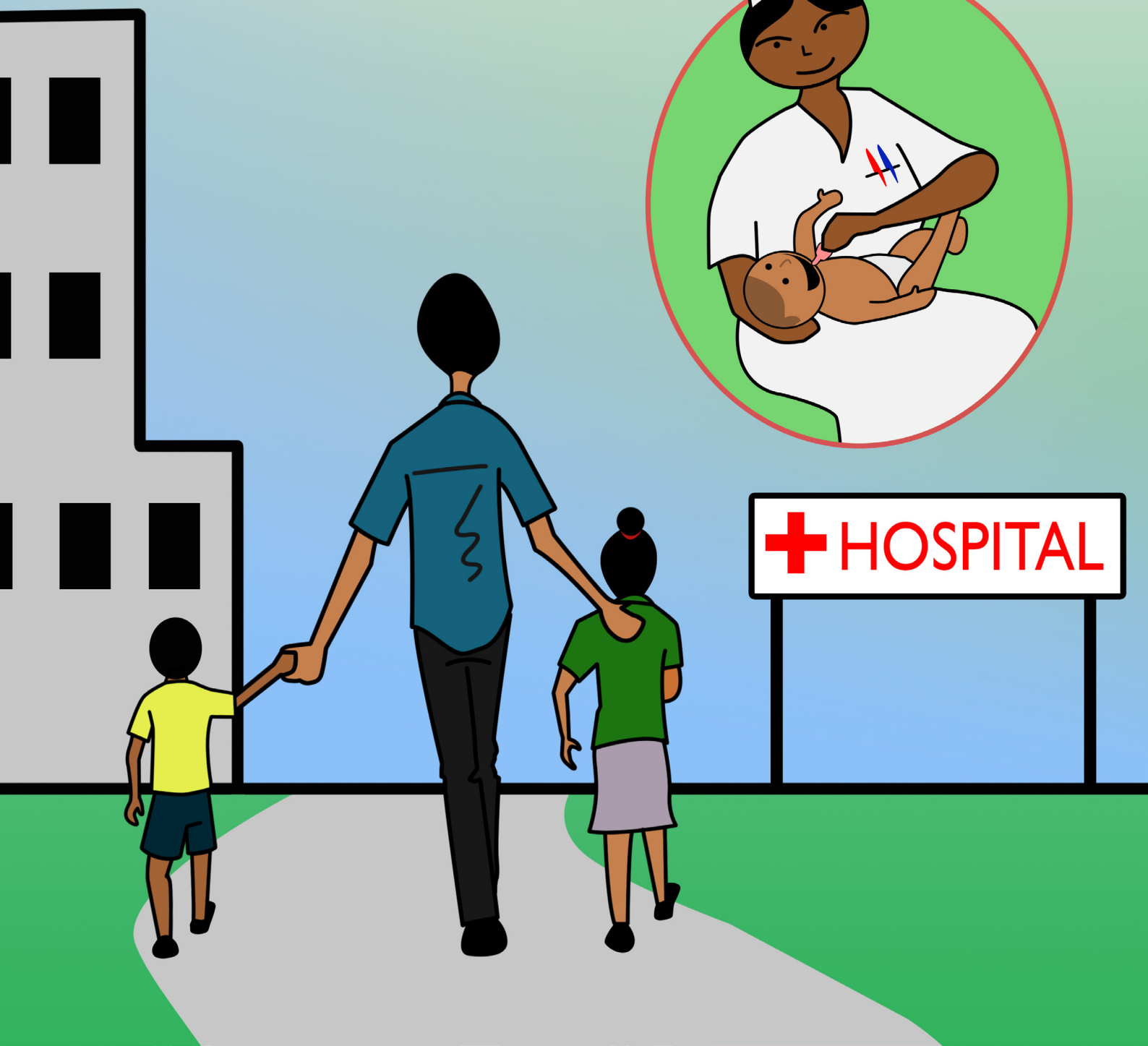
Right to good health.

Right to immunization.

Right to nutrition.

Right to Health and Health Care Services

I should enjoy the best physical, mental, and spiritual health from the day I am born.



Right to Nutrition

I have the right to have healthy meals. I should eat vegetables and other foods for adequate nutrition. This helps me grow strong and healthy.



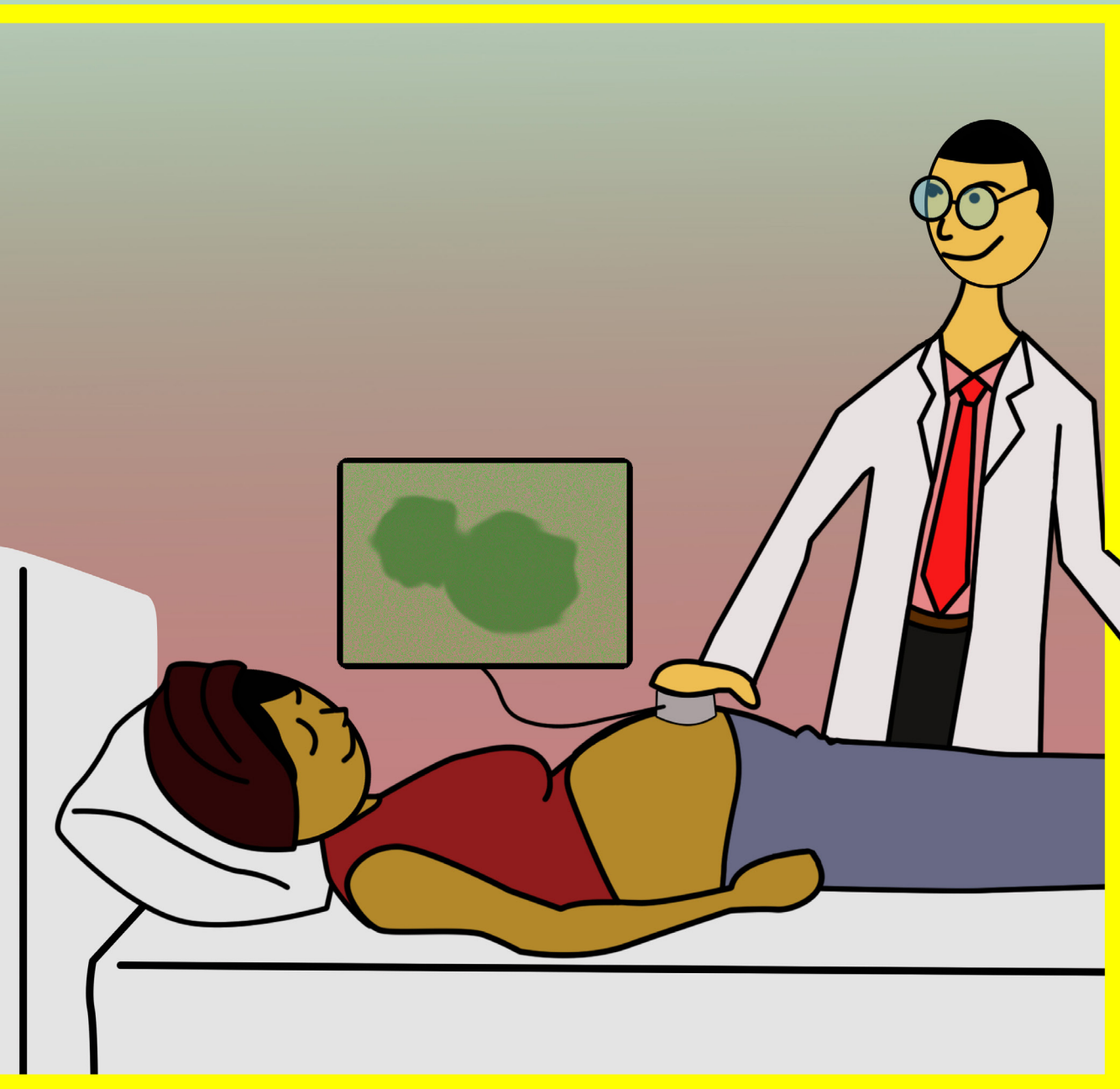
PROTECTION RIGHTS

All decisions that affect me must be taken in my best interest and protect me from harm such as:

Indescent and inhuman treatment,
Sexual exploitation,
Drug abuse,
Child labour,
Torture,
Maltreatment,
Neglect,
Discrimination,
Trafficking.

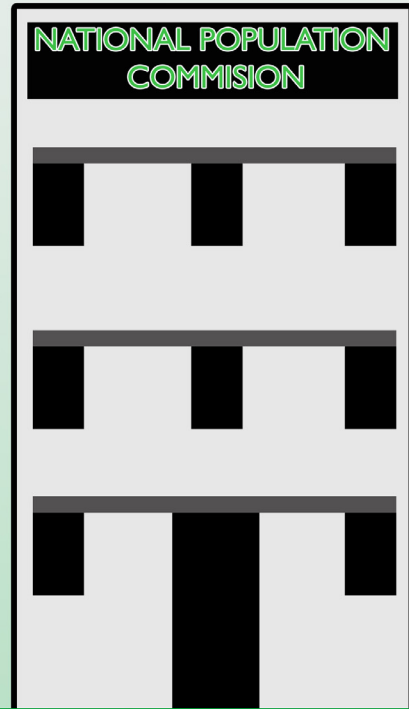
Right of Unborn Child to Protection

A child should be protected from any form of harm before, during, and after birth.



Right to Name, Identity, Nationality, and Birth Registration

I should ask my parents
or guardians if my birth
is registered.



ADMISSIONS

DO YOU HAVE
YOUR BIRTH
CERTIFICATE?

YES, MA.



I have the right
to a registration
of birth and to
be identified by
a name and
nationality.

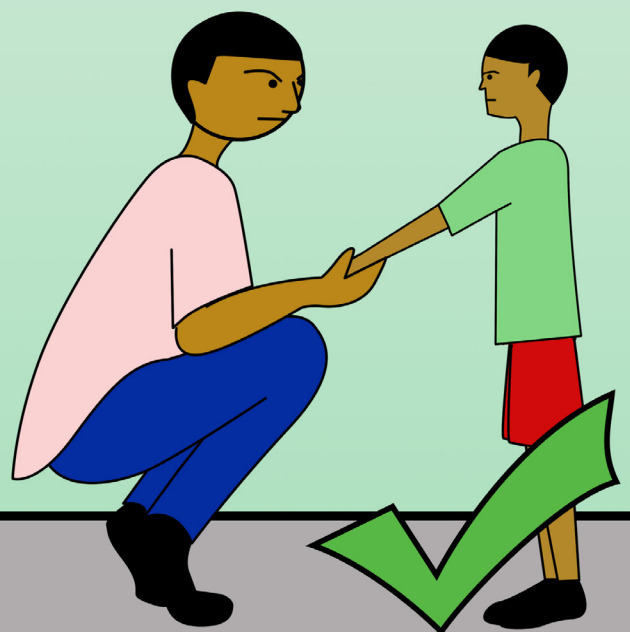
Right to Dignity as a Child

I should not be subjected to physical, mental, emotional, or sexual abuse.



I should not be injured, maltreated, or neglected.

I should be corrected with love and care.



Prohibition of Child Marriage / Betrothal

COME, DEAR.
YOU'LL GROW UP
TO BE MY WIFE.



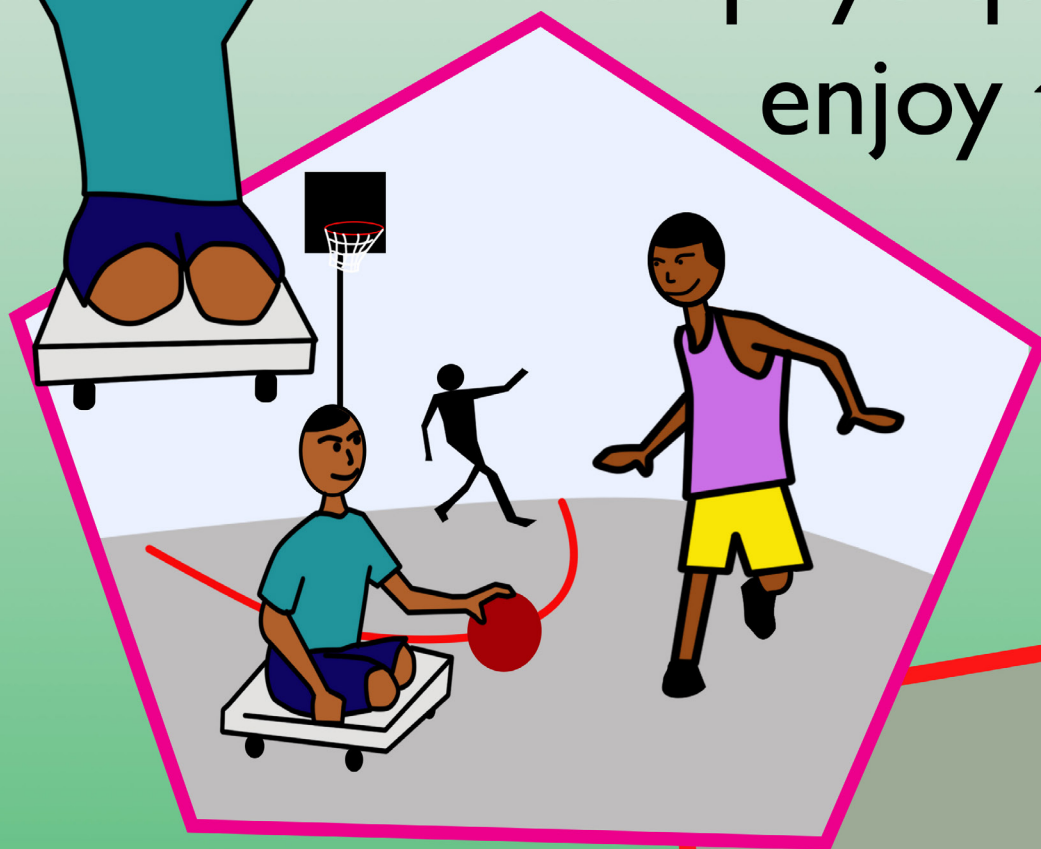
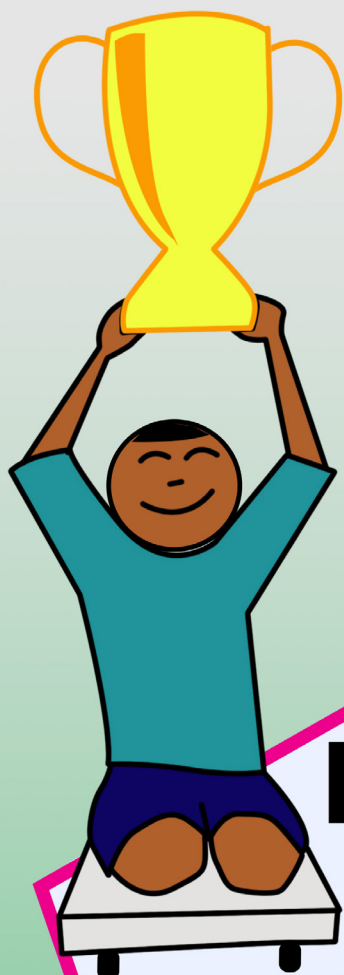
I should not be
betrothed to
anyone as
a child.



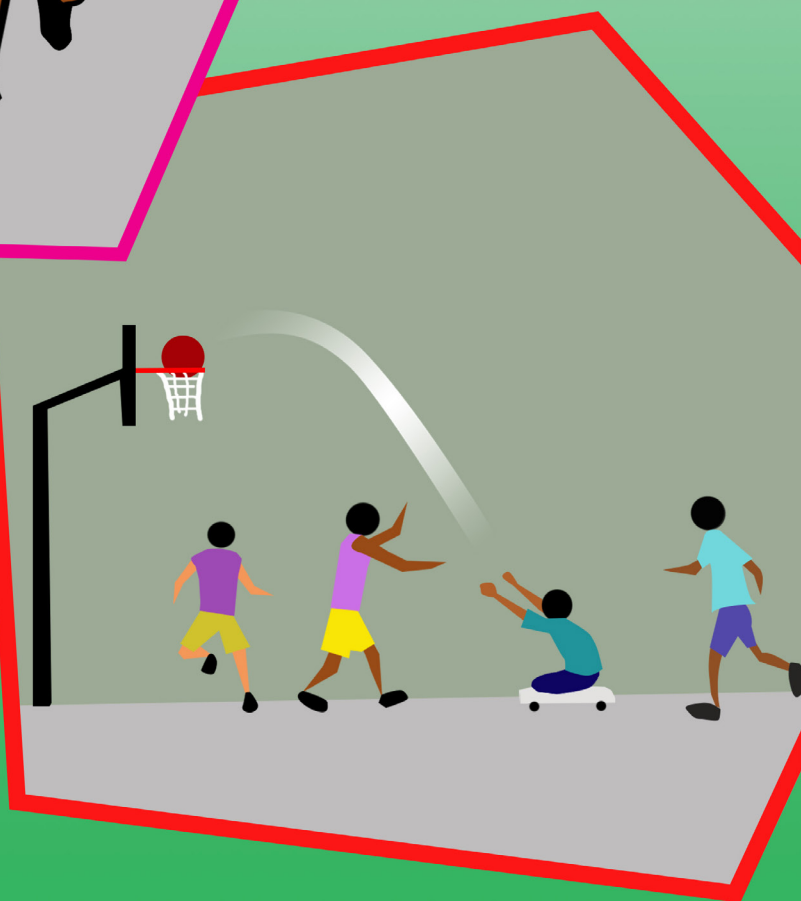
I should not
be deceived
or forced
into marriage.

Freedom from Discrimination

Children of whatever tribe, religion, gender, or physique should enjoy the same rights.

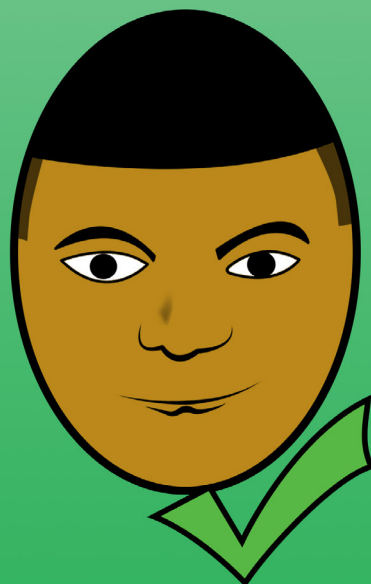
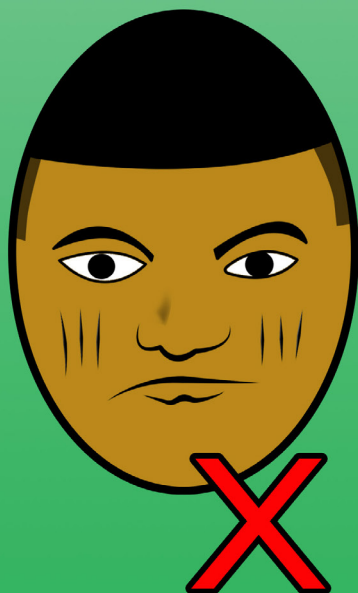
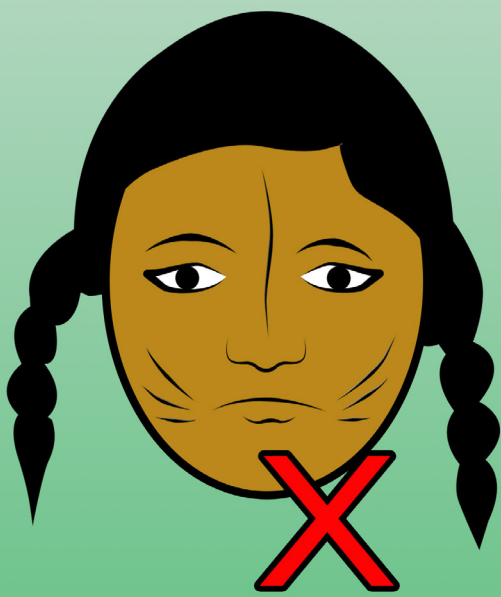


I shouldn't be discriminated against in any part of human endeavour.



Prohibition of Tattoos and Skin Marks

I should not be given tattoos, facial, and skin marks as these are dangerous to my health.



Prohibition from Drug Abuse

Hard drugs are very dangerous to my health.



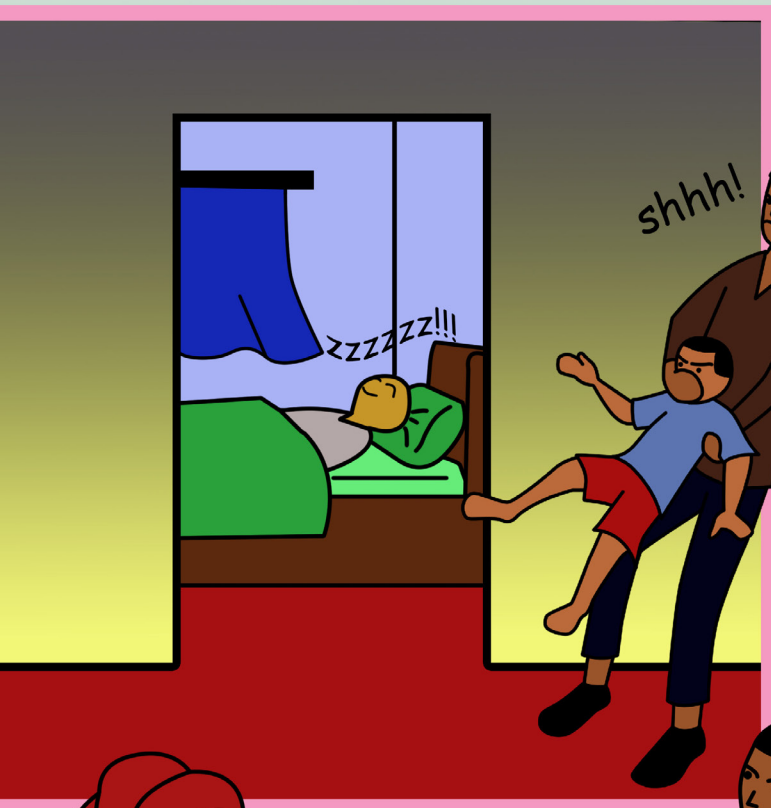
I should be protected from any form of drug abuse including its use, sale, and trafficking.

Prohibition from use for Criminal Activities



I should not be employed or used for criminal activities such as stealing.

Prohibition from Abduction, Removal, and Transfer from Lawful Custody



I should not be taken away illegally from my parents or guardians without their approval.



I am a child, not an item for sale.

Prohibition from Exploitative Labour

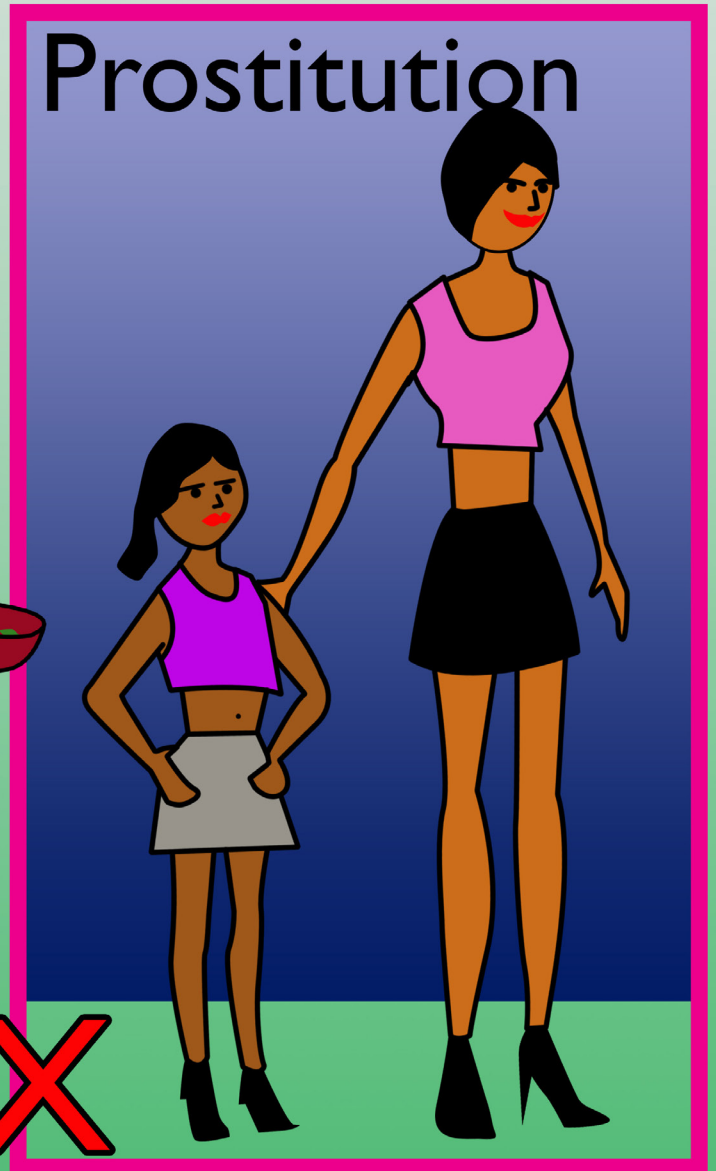


I am not supposed to do any work that will affect my education, health, and social life.

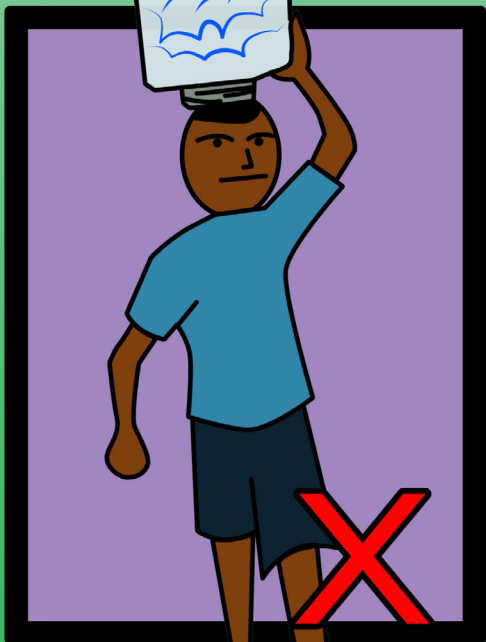
Prohibition from Buying, Selling, Hiring or Dealing in Children for...



Begging



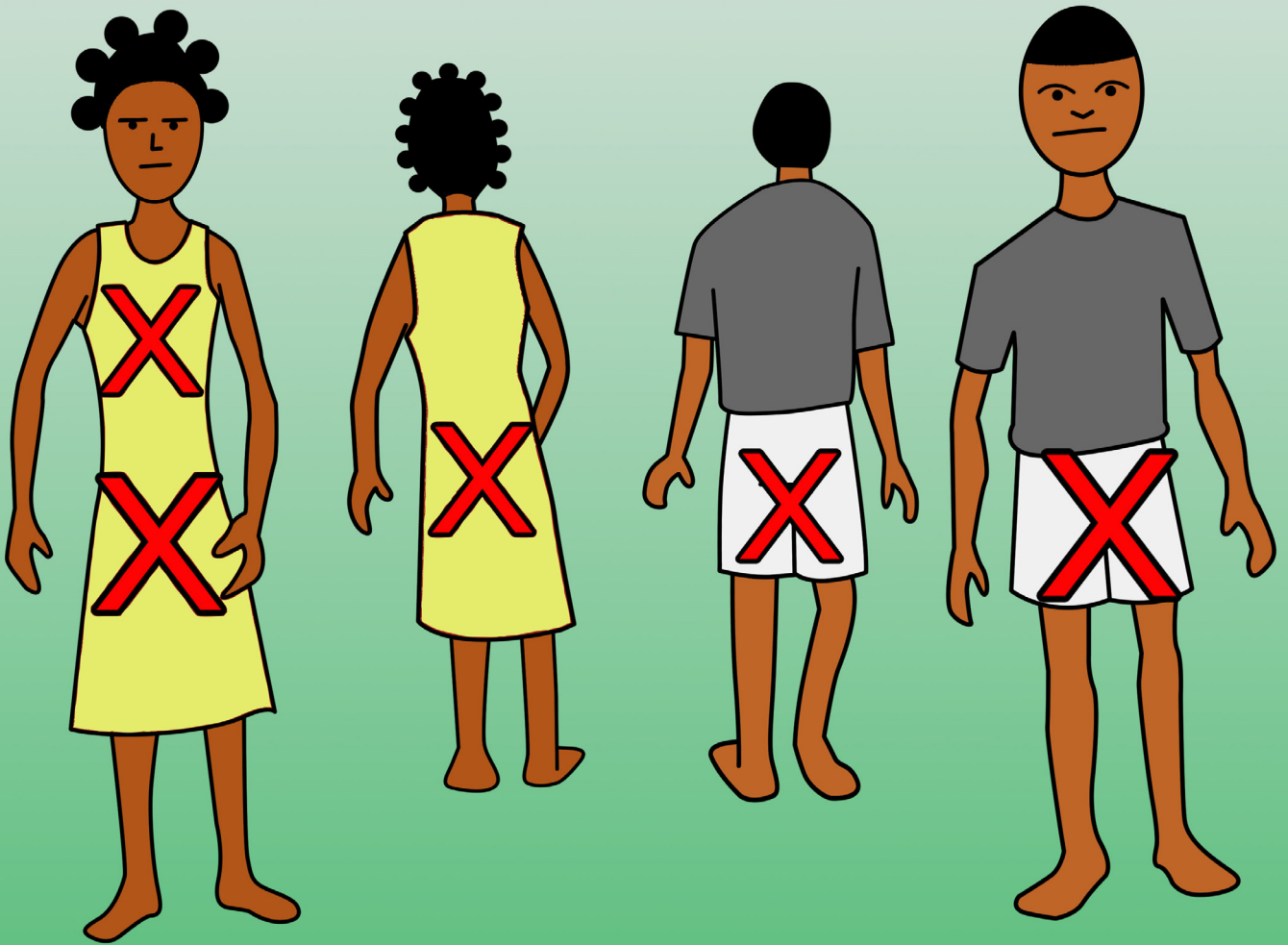
Prostitution



Hawking

I should not be used for begging, hawking, or prostitution.

Prohibition from any form of Sexual Abuse with a Child

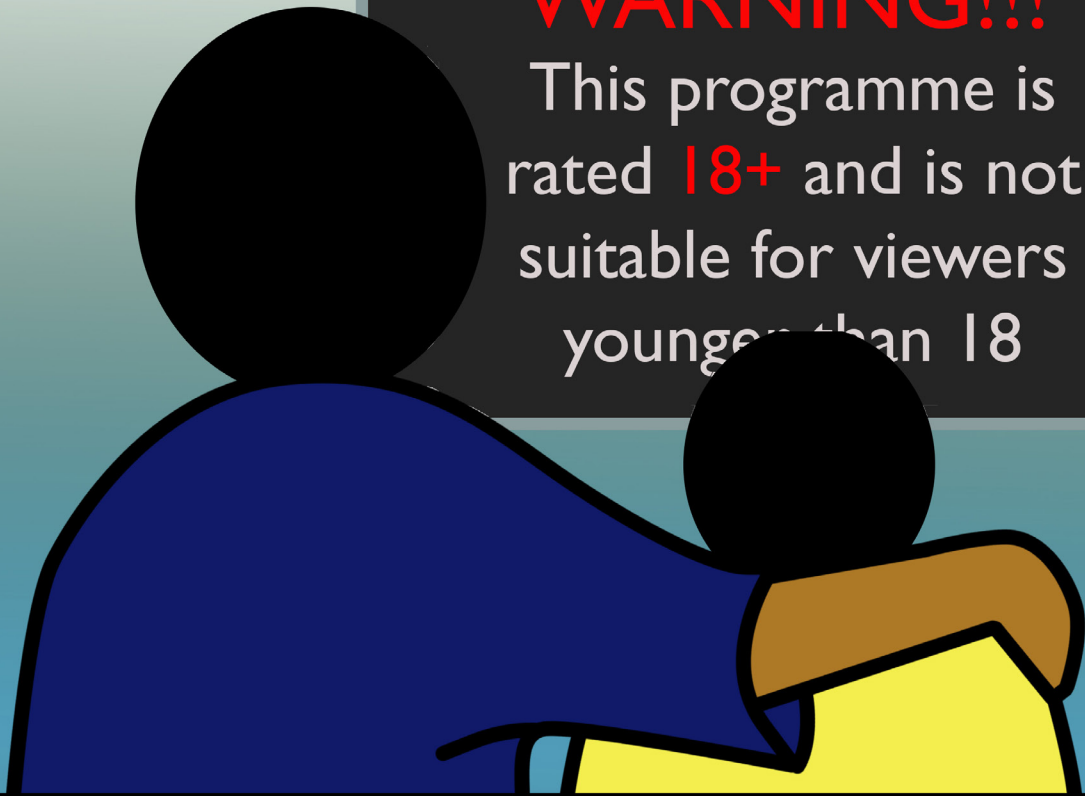


The places marked 'X' are my private parts (bum-bum). No body should touch them.

Prohibition from any form of Sexual Abuse with a Child

WARNING!!!

This programme is rated **18+** and is not suitable for viewers younger than 18



I should not be exposed to materials with any sexual content. I should not involve myself with any form of media not suitable for my age.

DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

In order to become a good adult,
I have to exercise my rights to
development as a child.

My development rights include:

Right to compulsory Universal
Primary Education.

Right to leisure and participation.

Right to Education



I have the right to go to school.
It is my responsibility to study
well and get good grades.



PARTICIPATION RIGHTS

Right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly.

Right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.

Right to privacy and family life subject to parental guidance.

Right to freedom of movement subject to parental guidance.

Right to rest and leisure and to engage in activities suitable for my age subject to parental guidance.

Participation Rights

I have the right to take part in activities and decision making that affect me.



I can express my opinion on different issues and I should not be afraid to share the ideas that I have.

Participation Rights



I can have friends.

I can join clubs and associations
if my parents or guardians
approve of it.

Right to Freedom of Thought and Worship

I can think,
follow my mind,
and worship
God anywhere.



But I must do so
as my parents or
guardians guide
me.



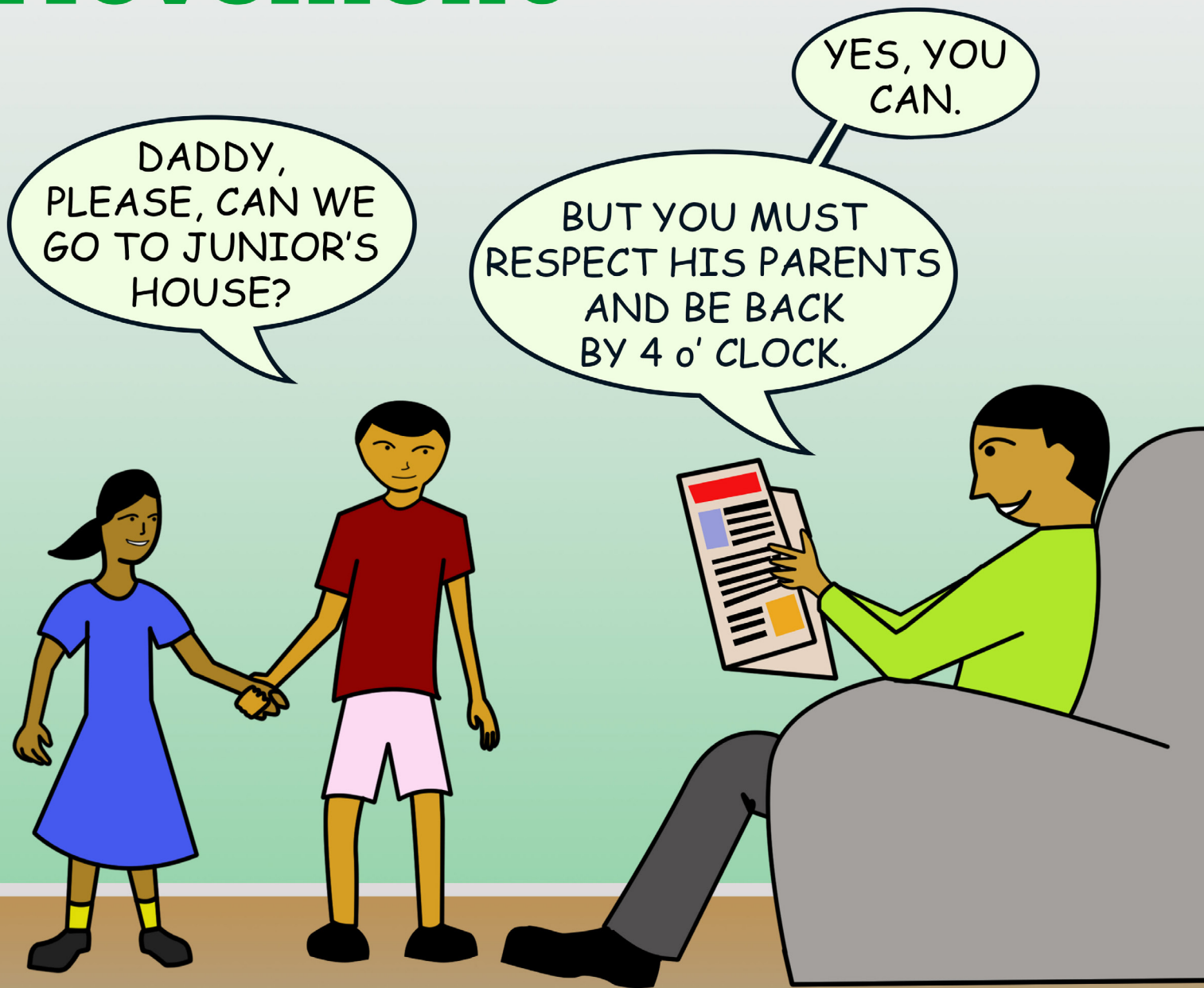
Right to Privacy and Family Life

I should have a home and family life. I can have privacy and communicate with people.



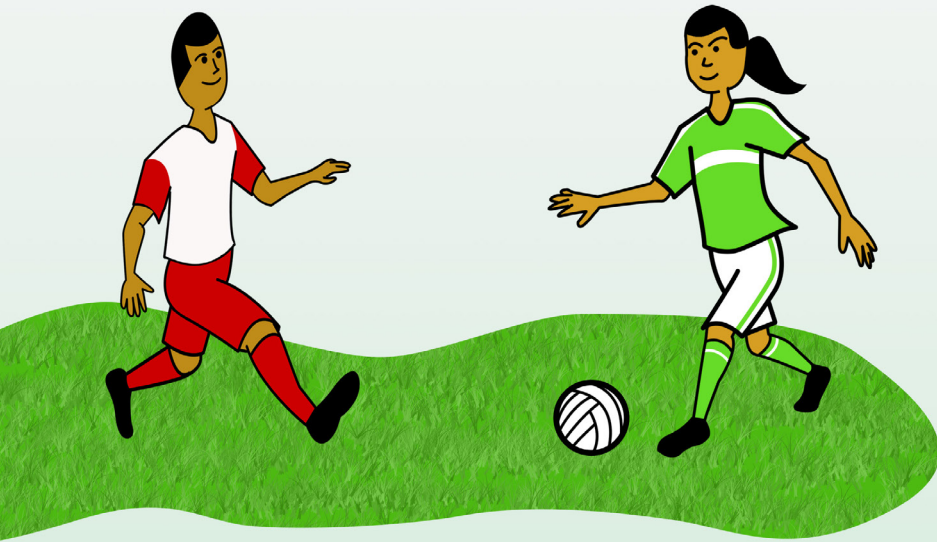
But my parents and guardians have the right to supervise and control my conduct.

Right to Freedom of Movement



I am free to move around as long as I seek my parents or guardians permission first.

Right to Recreation



I can play
and involve
in sports.

I can be involved in cultural
activities as my parents or
guardians guide me.



PUNISHMENTS FOR BREAKING THE CHILD'S RIGHT ACT

These are some punishments that could be faced by adults when the Child Right Act is not adhered to:

Crime	Penalty
Involvement in child marriage / betrothal	N500,000 fine or 5 years imprisonment
Applying tattoos, facial, or skin marks to children	N5000 fine or one month imprisonment
Involving children in drug abuse	Life imprisonment
Involving children in criminal activities	14 years imprisonment
Abduction, removal, and transfer of children from lawful custody	7 – 20 years imprisonment
Use of children for exploitative labour	N50,000 fine of 5 years imprisonment or both
Involvement of children for begging, hawking, prostitution, etc.	10 years imprisonment
Any form of sexual abuse with a child	1. Life imprisonment 2. 14 years imprisonment





"NOW, I KNOW ALL MY BASIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS A NIGERIAN CHILD"

