

Best Interests of the Child

TURNING PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE

**Children have rights.
Give them the respect and dignity they deserve.**

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations in 1989, and acceded to by Singapore in 1995, is built on the premise that human progress is founded on the healthy development of children. It spells out a vision in which the rights of all children, without exception, are realised.

Enshrined in the philosophy of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the principle of the "best interests of the child". Article 3.1 of the Convention states that:

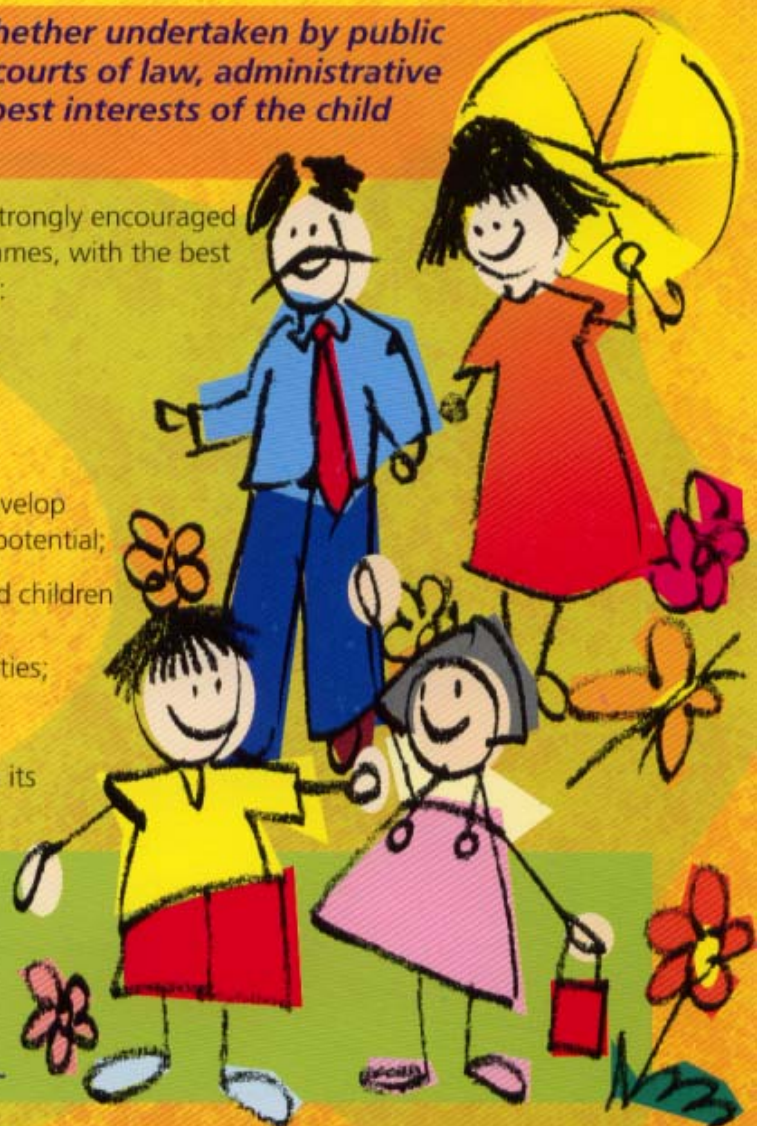
"In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration."

Organisations working with children are therefore strongly encouraged to design and administer their services and programmes, with the best interests of the child in mind. Organisations should:

- address issues of welfare and safety for children;
- not discriminate against any child;
- ensure gender equality;
- attempt to meet each child's basic needs, and develop opportunities to help the child reach his / her full potential;
- accord appropriate consideration for disadvantaged children – victims of all forms of violence and exploitation, extreme poverty, disasters and those with disabilities;
- involve families and communities; and
- ensure that periodic reviews of children placed in its care and treatment are carried out.

**A hundred years from now,
it will not matter what my bank account was,
the sort of house I lived in,
or the kind of car I drove.
But the world may be different because
I was important in the life of a CHILD.**

~ Kathy Davis ~



MCYS

Ministry of Community Development,
Youth and Sports

Another publicity project under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child