

## Children's Rights

- ❖ Essential Concepts & Terms In Ethics: - Autonomy; Beneficence; Confidentiality; Paternalism; Non-Maleficence; Justice; Advocacy; Consent.

Consent: - Informed Consent Free Will Competence Autonomy Truth-Telling  
Justice Beneficence Non-Maleficence

- ❖ Competing ideas about what children are or should be are evident all around us. This in turn sets up conflicting and contradictory attitudes in the way that we behave towards children and young people (Brotchie 2006).

Reflection: -

What are the main pressures children face today?

How does childhood today compare to your own? Has it improved or become harder?

Do you believe children are 'growing up' more quickly? If so, why?

The key provisions covered by the Convention can be summarised within the following broad categories:

1. Survival rights, from the child's right to life through the most basic needs, including food, shelter and access to health care
2. Development rights, or all those things that children require in order to reach their fullest potential, from education to play to freedom of thought, conscience and religion
3. Protection rights, requiring that children be safeguarded against all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation & neglect
4. Participation rights, including the right to free expression, which allow children to take an active role in their communities and nations

Article 24 is the main article that is concerned with the provision of health services. It states that all children under 18 years old have the right to 'the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health'

Article 24 also lays down the right to healthcare services, which prevent ill health, health promotion, and access to facilities for treatment and return to health. Article 2.1 supports these are the rights of every child 'without discrimination of any kind'.

#### Measures to Achieve Article 24

1. Taking steps to reduce infant mortality
2. Providing health care for all children especially through PHC
3. Providing appropriate pre & post natal care for mothers
4. Ensuring that parents & children have basic health promotion information & appropriate support
5. Developing preventive healthcare services
6. Developing appropriate family planning education & services

Key Reference: -

[http://www.unicef.org/publications/index\\_pubs\\_rights.html](http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_pubs_rights.html)