



A story about
children's rights



We stand on the lands
We look at the skies
We swim in the waters
My friends and I.

We play together
On Traditional lands.
We walk with First Nations people
Hand in hand.

From our hearts we say thank you
For letting us share
The Countries that you love.
We will also take care.



For

every
child

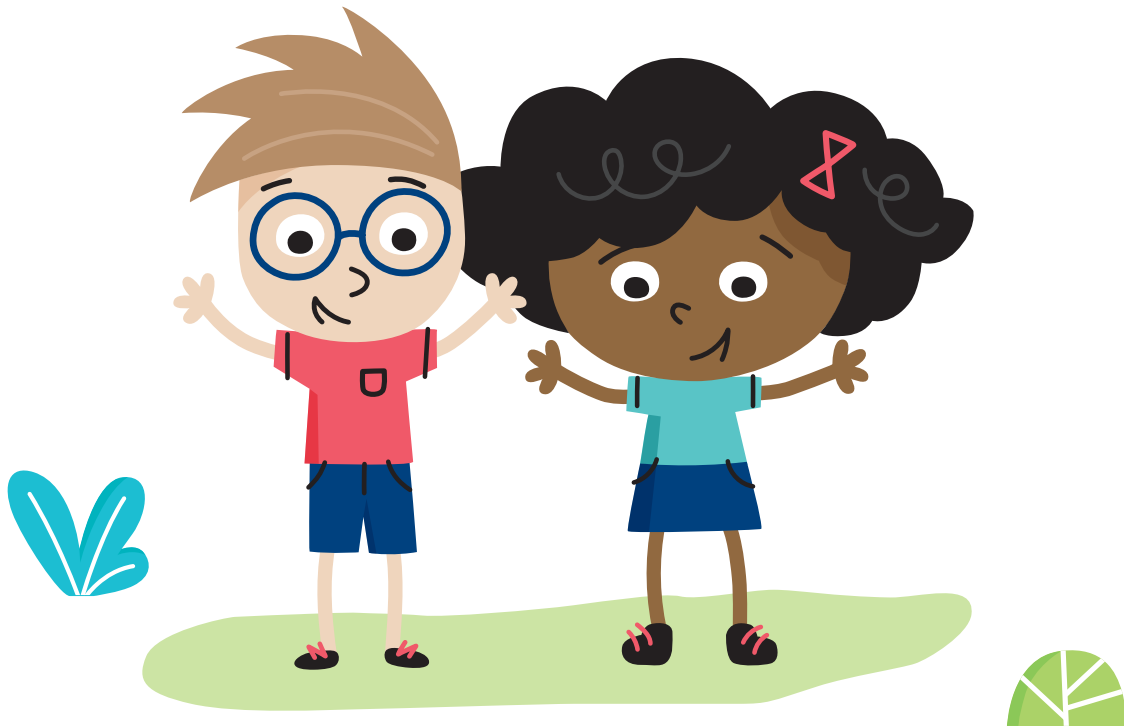


The Right to Be Me

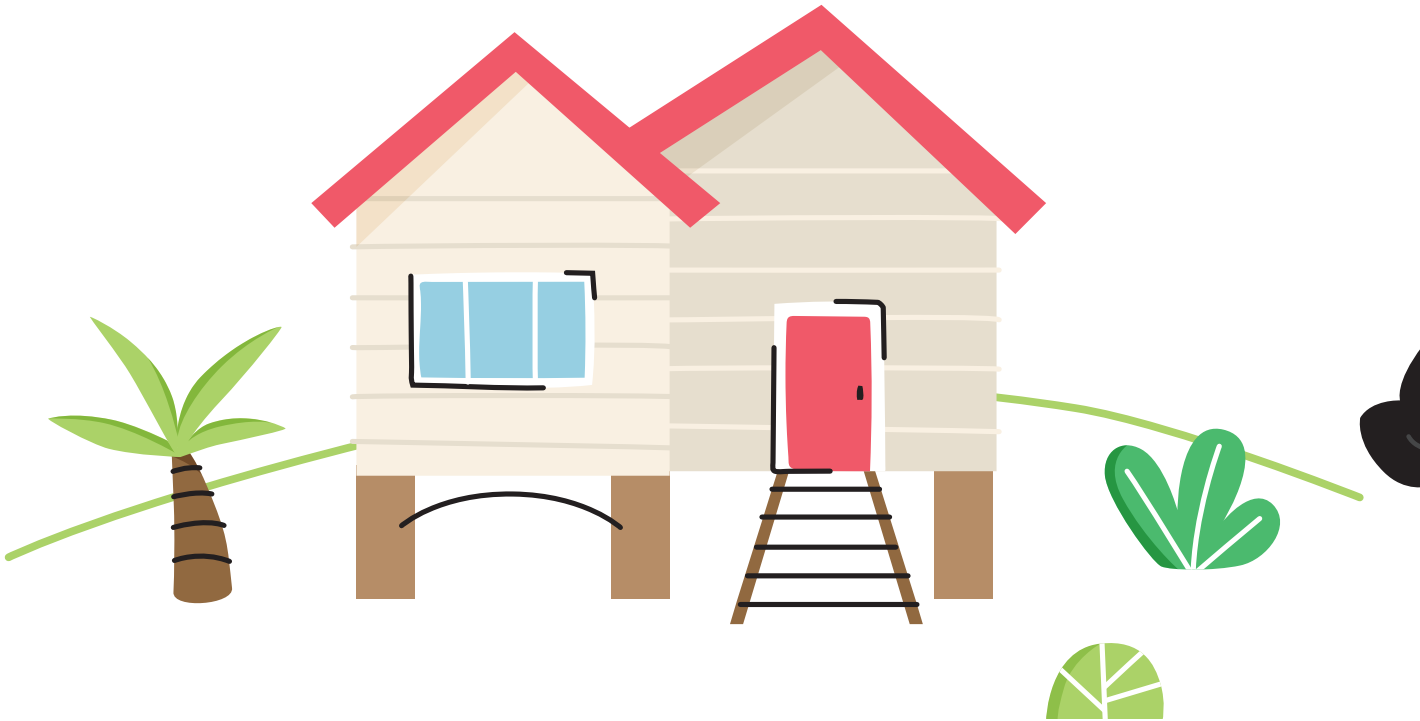
A story about children's rights

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Lowanna and Jack are friends.



In fact, Lowanna & Jack are

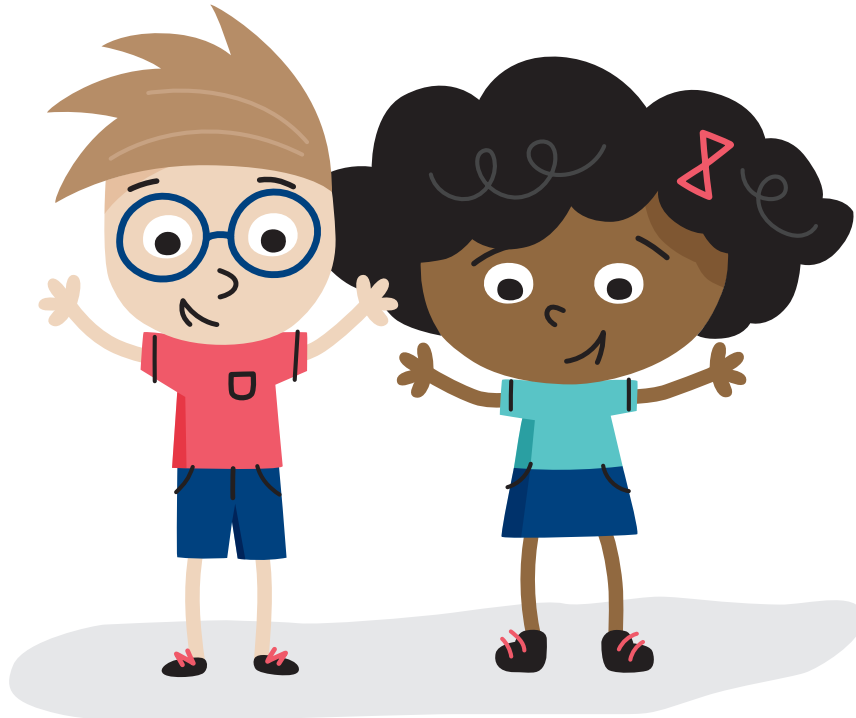
Best Friends!

They live in beautiful Queensland, Australia.



It's nearly the start of a super special week called Children's Week™.
It's a time when the rights of children are celebrated.

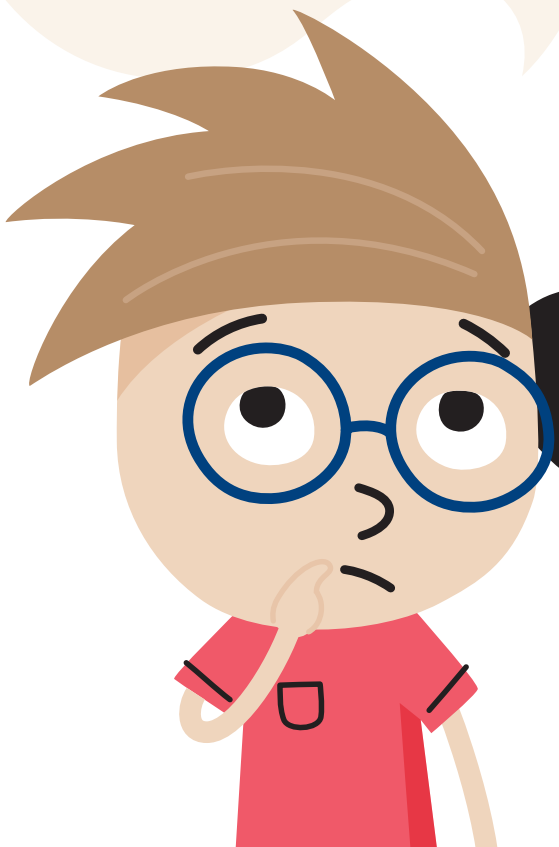
'Let's celebrate being children and
having rights!' said Lowanna.





What does
Having Rights
mean?

‘Well... a long time ago, countries around the world made a list of rules, called rights, to help every child have a happy, safe and healthy childhood.’



‘Understanding the rights of children means knowing when they aren’t being respected,’ said Lowanna.

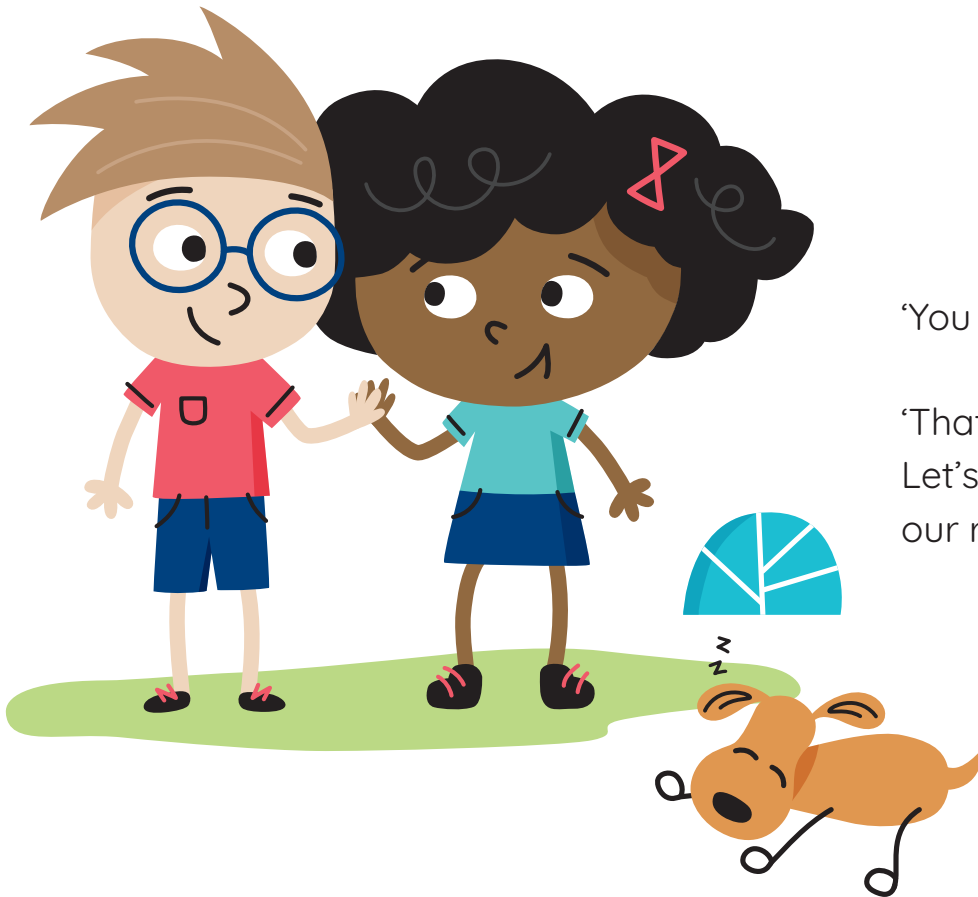
‘So... what rights do children have?’

‘Lots! We have the right to **feel safe, go to school, be treated fairly, say how we feel** and to **share our ideas.**’



‘That’s great! Do I have the right to

play and have FUN too?’ said Jack.



‘You sure do Jack!’

‘That’s even better.
Let’s celebrate
our rights!’

So Lowanna and Jack made a list of ideas about how to celebrate. Their favourite idea was to chat with friends they hadn't seen for ages.

But catching up with friends was not easy. Queensland is a big place, and their friends live all over the state!

Lowanna and Jack thought...



and thought...



and thought!

Then they had the best




ever...



They could have an **online meeting with friends!**

With a bit of grown-up help, it wasn't long before they organised a meeting and sent the invitations.



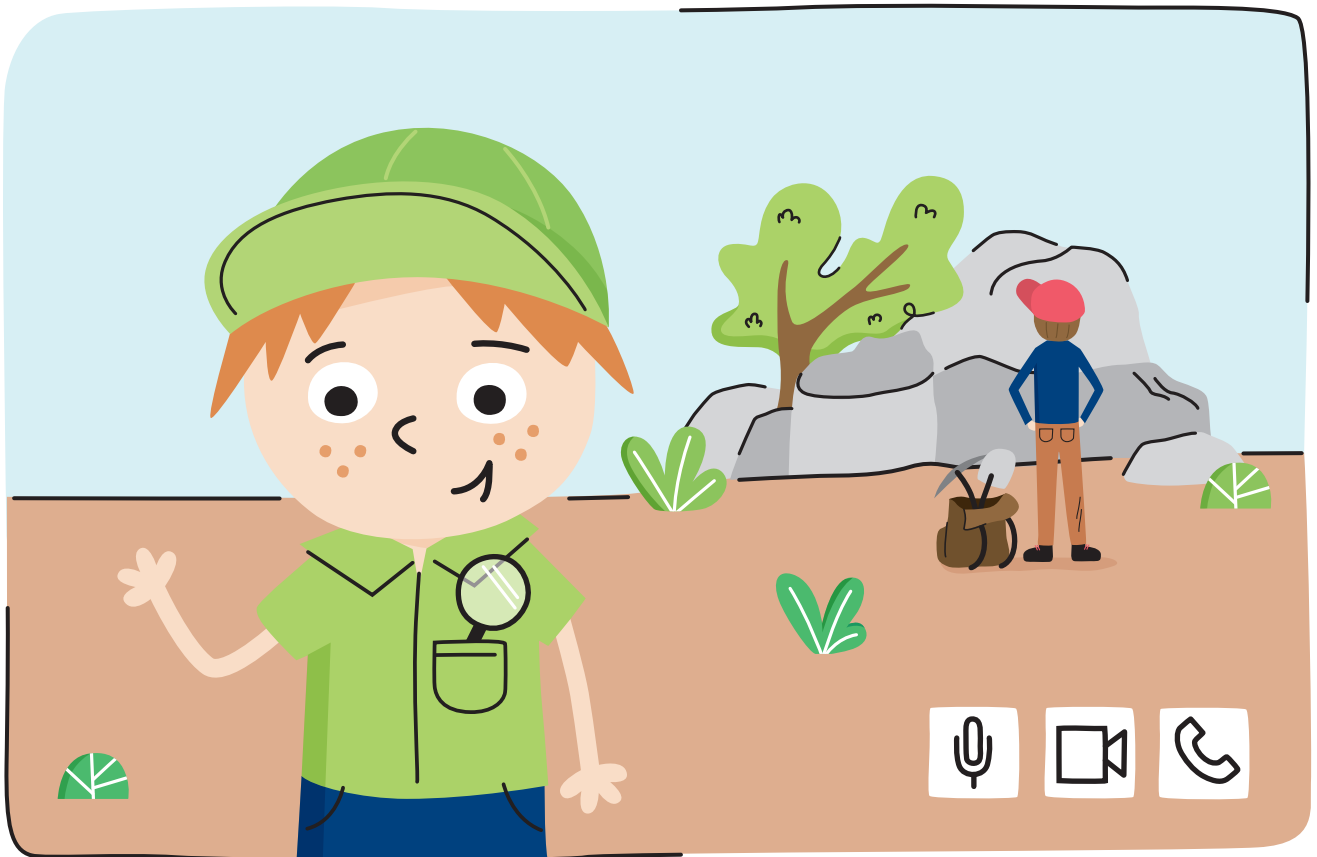


The big day arrived. Lowanna and Jack welcomed all the children and the grown-ups to the **Celebrate Children's Rights Meeting**.



‘You go first Riley,’ said Lowanna. ‘Then we’ll take turns.’

‘Okay! I’m Riley and I live with my Dad in Mt Isa.
I’ve been finding out about different kinds of rocks.
I’m a member of a gem club.’





'It's my right to

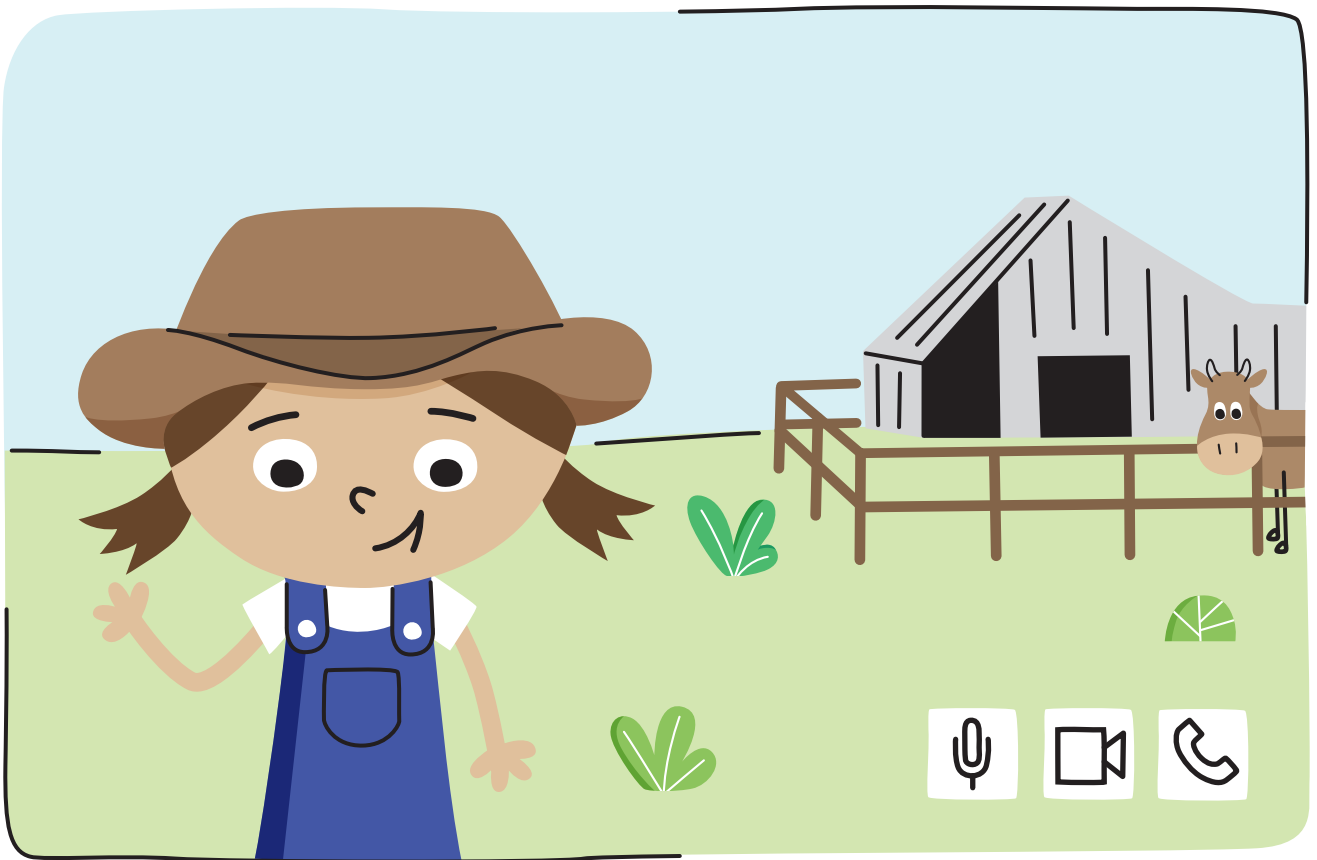
Learn

about new things and
to meet with others!

'That's awesome Riley, thanks!' said Jack.

'Miriam, you're out at Longreach. What have you been up to?'

‘Well, tomorrow I’m going to meet my friends from the Distance Education School for the swimming carnival. I live on an outback station and most of the time I only get to see my classmates online.’



'It's my right to have help getting to activities
that keep me



and



and to see my friends!

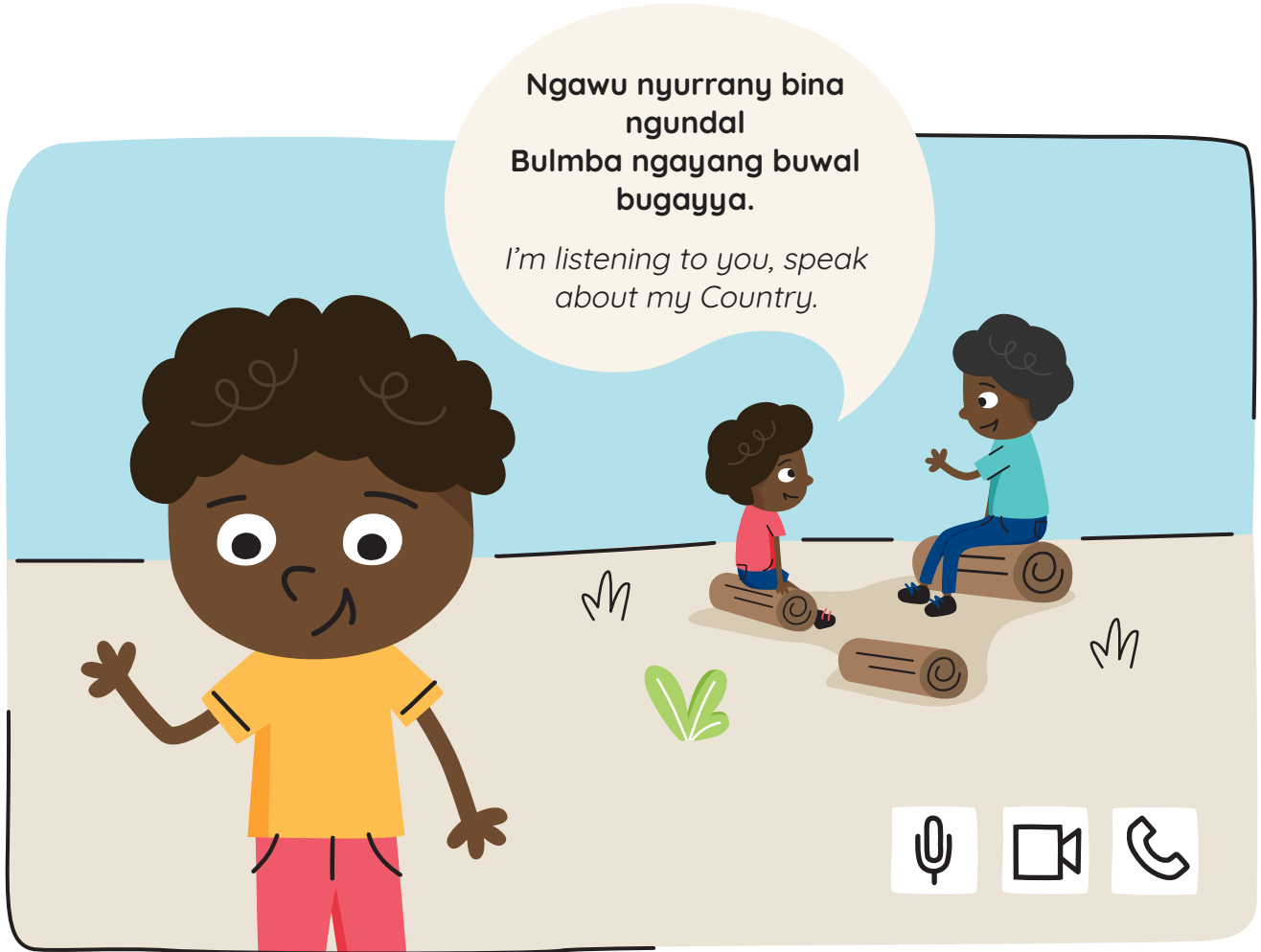


'That sounds like fun Miriam,' said Lowanna.
'Bina Mirri, what have you been doing?'

'Hi everyone! I live with my family in Kuranda. Uncle has been teaching me about my Country and culture.'

Ngawu nyurrany bina
ngundal
Bulmba ngayang buwal
bugayya.

*I'm listening to you, speak
about my Country.*



‘It’s my right to enjoy
my Country and

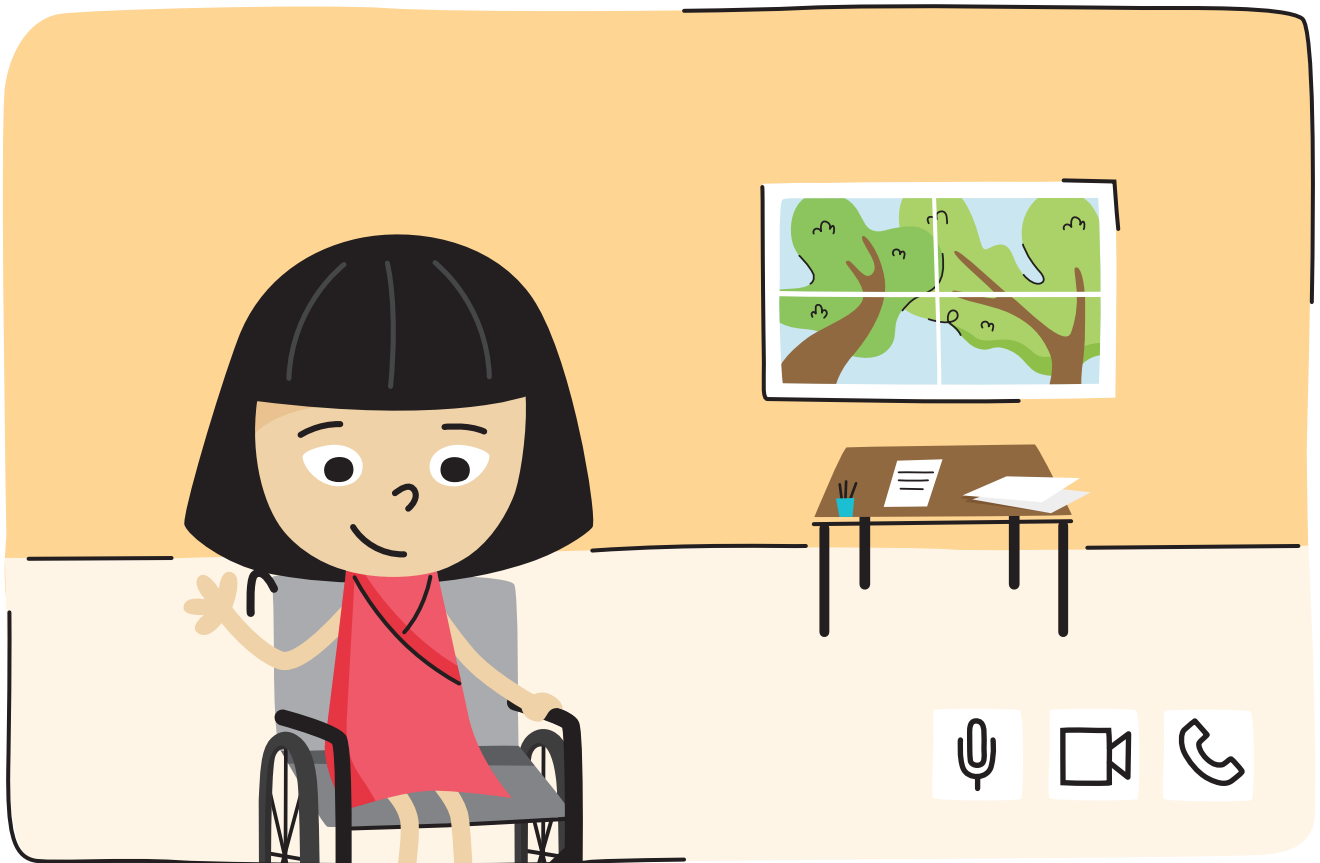
Culture,

and learn my language!’



‘Wow, that is so cool, thanks!’ said Jack. ‘What about you, Anh?’

‘Well, I live on the Gold Coast with my mum. I’m in the Environment Club at school. I’ve been writing letters to important people about keeping koalas safe by not chopping down trees.’



‘It’s my right to

Have a say

about things that
matter to me!’



‘Great work, that’s so important!’ said Lowanna.

‘Anika, what have you been up to?’

'I just moved into a new house in Toowoomba with my family. I had fun helping my parents make traditional food dishes for the Food Festival. I met lots of new friends there.'



‘It’s my right to have a
home,

enjoy my religion
and share my culture!’



‘Yum! Thanks Anika!’ said Lowanna.

Everyone had a turn, except for Lowanna and Jack.

'It's your turn Lowanna,' said Jack.

'I live in Brisbane,' said Lowanna.

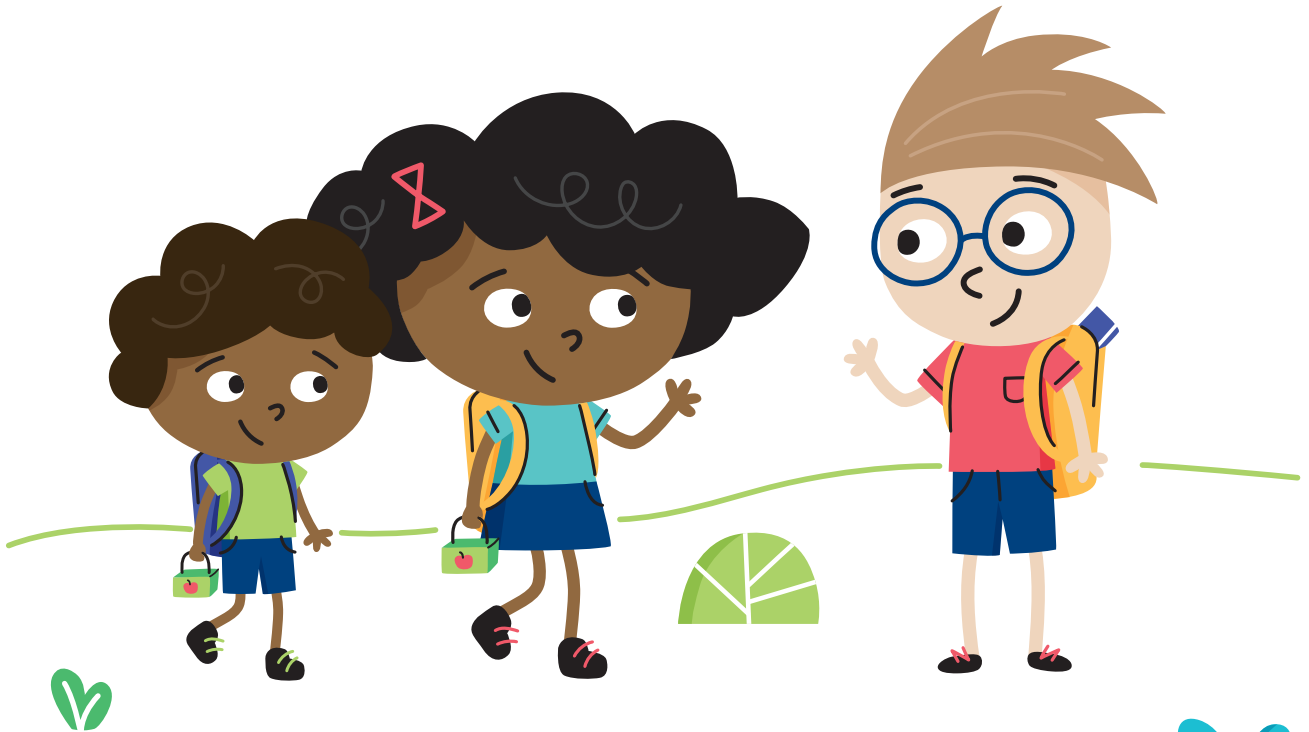


'I love reading, writing stories,

and cooking.'



'My favourite time of day is when Dad,
Mum and my little brothers pack our
yummy lunches before we walk to school.'

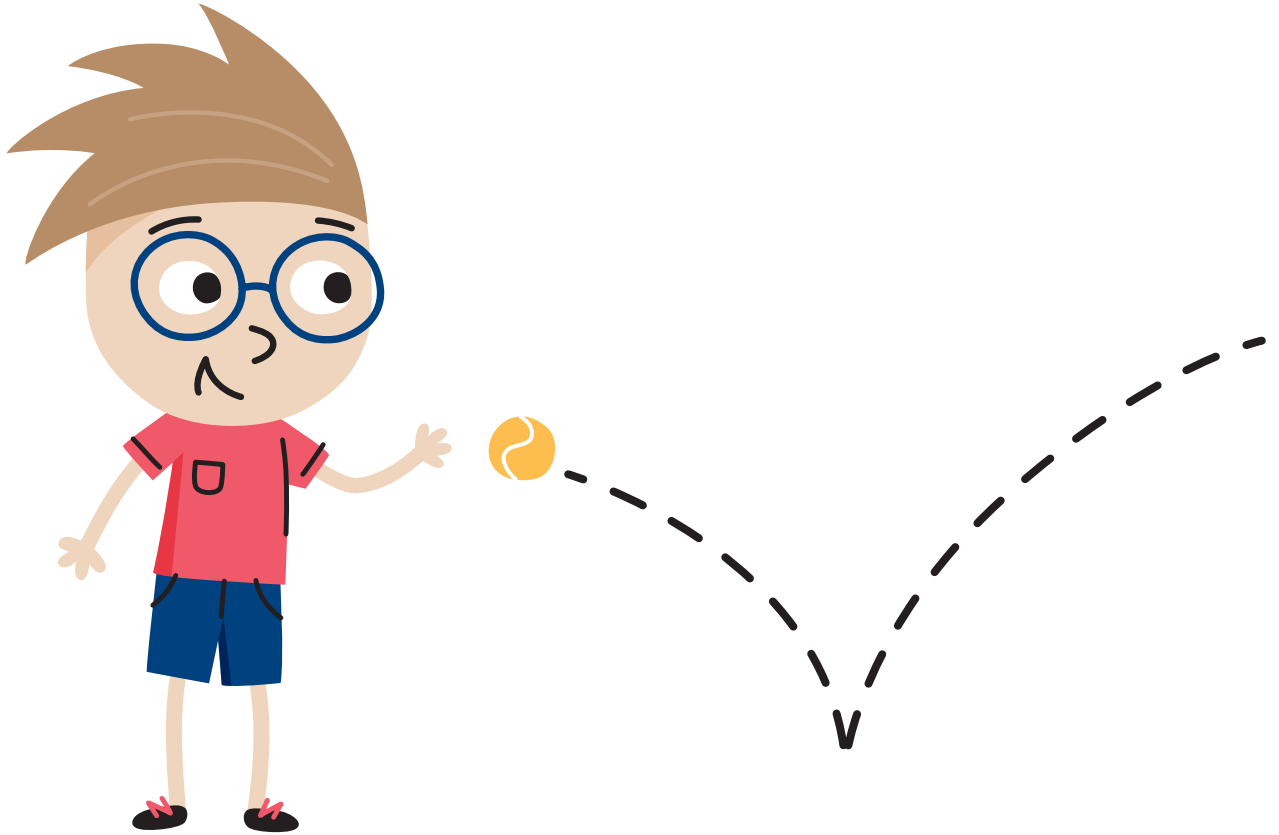


'It's my right to have

Healthy Food,

go to school safely, and to learn.'

'Me too,' said Jack. 'But I also love to play handball!'



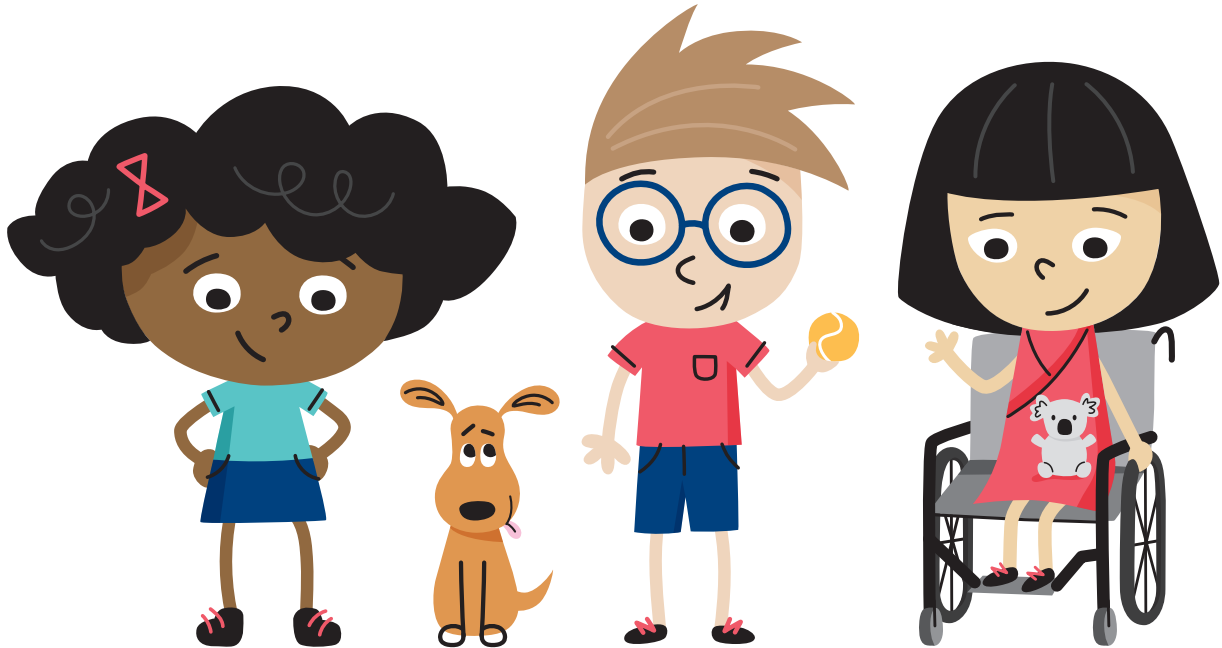
'It's my right to be a **kid**,
to be happy and play!'

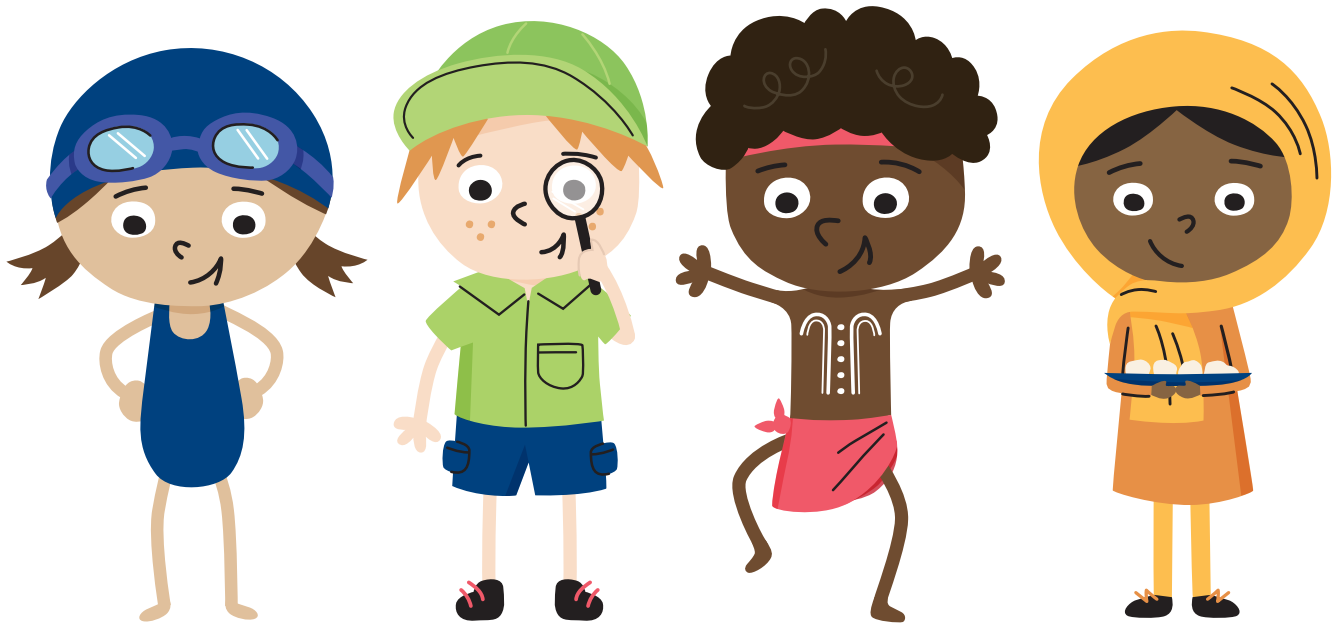
‘We’re children, and we all have special rights to celebrate every day,’ said Lowanna.

‘Yes, Go Children’s Rights!’ said Jack, and everyone else joined in.



Jack and Lowanna's idea really had been the best idea ever.
All children have rights, and we should respect them.





And that's worth **celebrating!**

Children's Rights Queensland was founded in 1971 and has a rich history of promoting children's rights and supporting communities. A range of initiatives that raise awareness of children's needs, rights, and achievements are delivered each year.

This book is proudly supported by the Queensland Family and Child Commission.

Children's Rights Queensland acknowledges and thanks the Djabugay Aboriginal Corporations (on behalf of the Djabugay Traditional Owners) for their approval to use their language in this book and for their advice about the Aboriginal character and his story. Djabugay is the name of the languages spoken in the Cairns region extending along the hinterland and ranges from Mt Molloy towards Atherton and along the Upper Barron River. Children's Rights Queensland recognises that Djabugay language is one of many Aboriginal languages across Queensland. We also acknowledge that language, heritage and knowledge remains with the Traditional Owners, language custodians and community members of the respective language nation.

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yOni Yinarr – Yuwalaaraay Elder: Cultural Advice

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My Rights

You have the right to live and grow up healthy

You have the right to live with your parents as long as they look after you well

You have the right to be heard

You have the right to special care if you have been badly treated

You have the right to be raised by both of your parents and this should be supported by the government

You have the right to be given news and information, and it should be told to you in a way that you can understand

Children who live in a different country to either of their parents have the right to be reunited

If your family cannot look after you, you have the right to be looked after by people who respect your religion, culture and language

You have the right to a registered name and nationality

You have the right to clean water, healthy food and a clean environment

You have the right to be treated fairly and respectfully

You have the right to privacy

You have the right to support from the government if your family doesn't have much money

You have the right to an education

Children who come to Australia as a refugee from another country have the same rights as children who were born in Australia

You have the right to rest, play and join in with lots of different types of activities

If you are disabled, you have the right to special care and support

You have the right to remain in your country

You have the right to meet other children by joining groups

You have the right to be protected from violence

You have the right to express yourself as long as you don't hurt others

If you don't live with your parents, you have the right to have your care reviewed often

If you have been adopted, what is best for you is most important

You have the right to enjoy your culture, no matter where you are from

If you break the law, you have the right to be treated fairly and not be put in prison with adults

**To learn more about children's rights
visit childrensrightsqld.org.au**

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Rights
Queensland**