

IDENTITY IS MY RIGHT TO BE ME

Did you know that all children have rights?

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** is an agreement to protect children's rights - **ratified** (signed up to) by more countries around the world than any other human rights treaty! Aotearoa is one of those countries which means our government has an obligation to ensure these rights are fulfilled for all children under 18 across the motu (country).



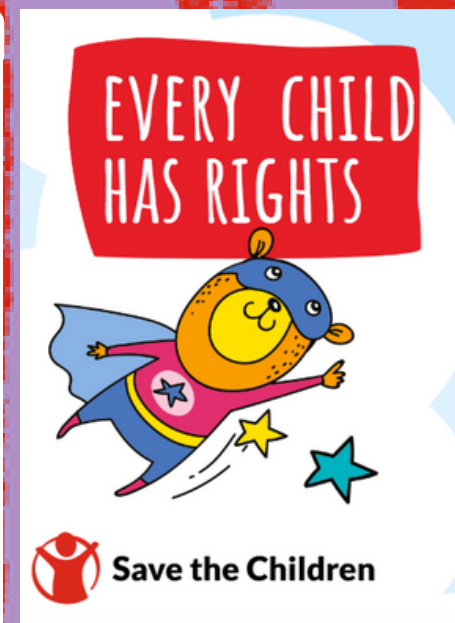
Identity is one of your rights!

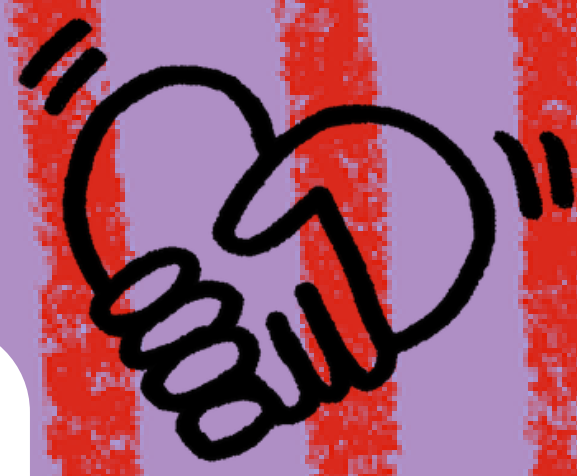
There are **54 rights** included in the convention.

These are all based on what children need to survive, grow, participate and reach their potential!

Articles 7 and 8 are the specific ones that talk about the right to identity and that the Government has to respect your right to your name, nationality and family.

Scan to see the full list of rights!





IDENTITY DISCUSSION PROMPTS

These sentence starters and prompts could be used:

- For oral language discussion starters as a class/group or in pairs
- As inspiration for writing
- At the top of big poster pages that tamariki can contribute answers to



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IDENTITY DISCUSSION PROMPT #1

**Identity is my right to be me.
What does this mean to me?**



**Ko taku tuakiri, ko au.
He aha te tikanga o tēnei ki ahau?**



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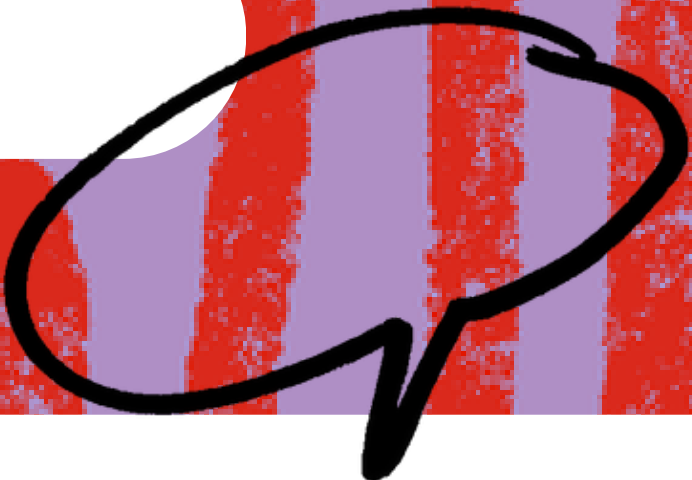


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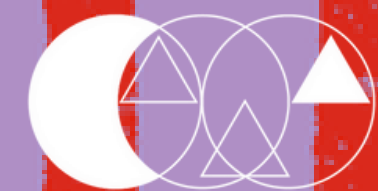


IDENTITY DISCUSSION PROMPT #2

I am....



Ko au...



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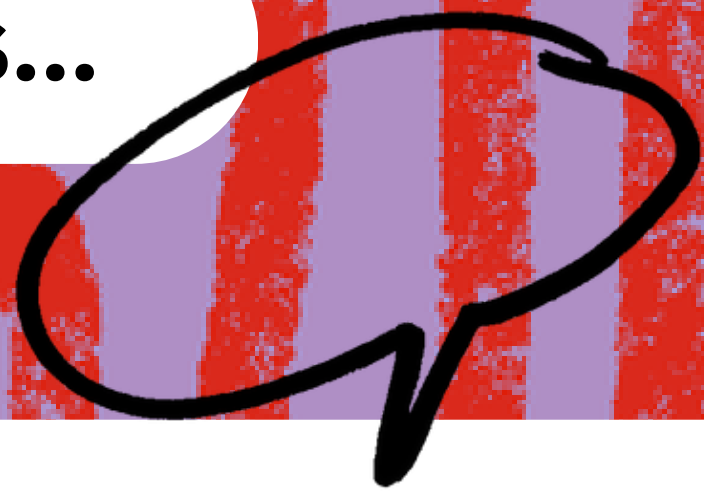


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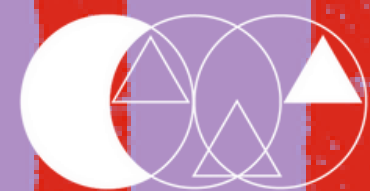


IDENTITY DISCUSSION PROMPT #3

What makes me special is...



Ko aku motuhaketanga, ko...



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IDENTITY DISCUSSION PROMPT #4

What do I like about myself?

He aha ōku mea pai?



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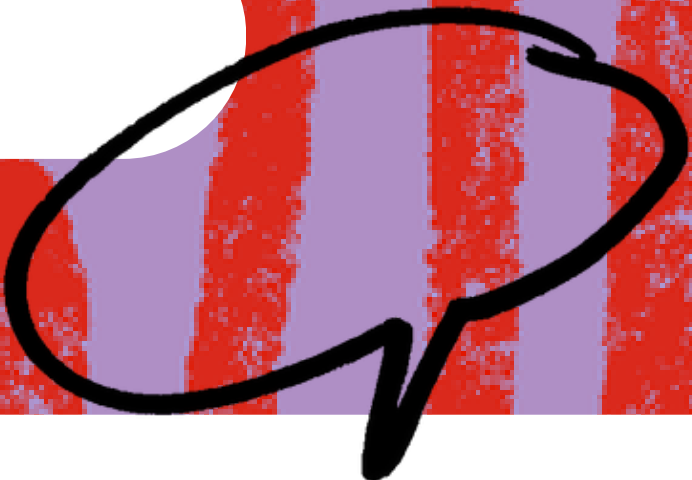


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IDENTITY DISCUSSION PROMPT #5

Identity is...



Ko te tuakiri, ko...



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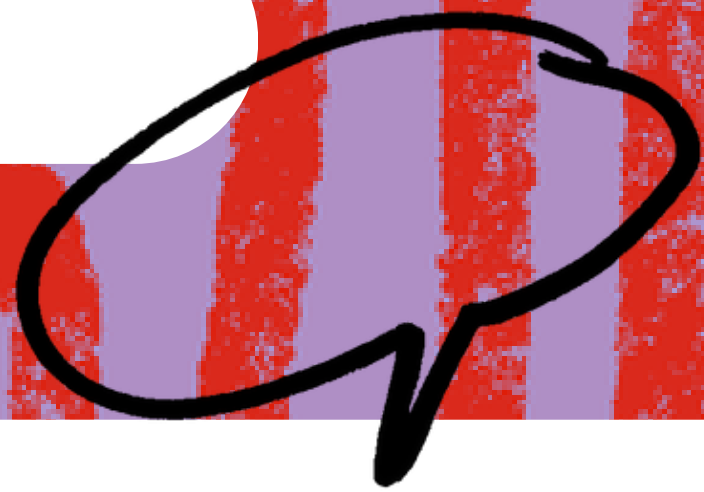


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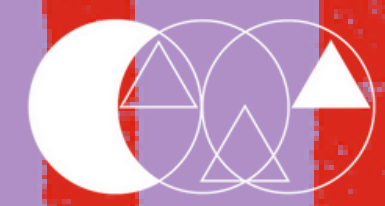


IDENTITY DISCUSSION PROMPT #6

I have a right to be...



Kei a au te mana kia tū au hei...



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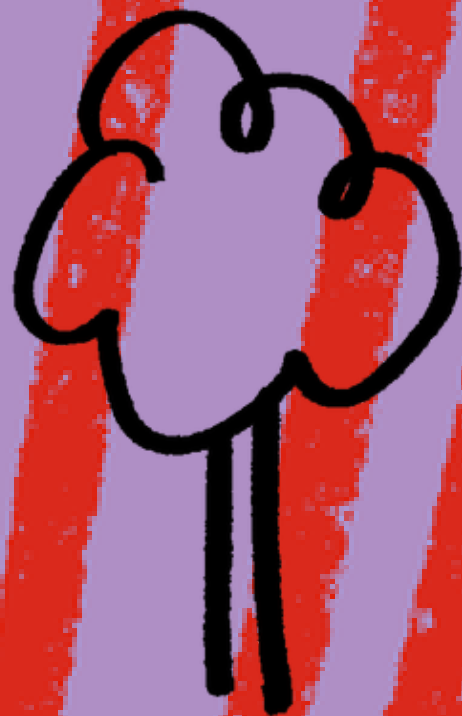


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IDENTITY DISCUSSION PROMPT #7

How does identity change?



Ka huri pēhea nei te tuakiri?



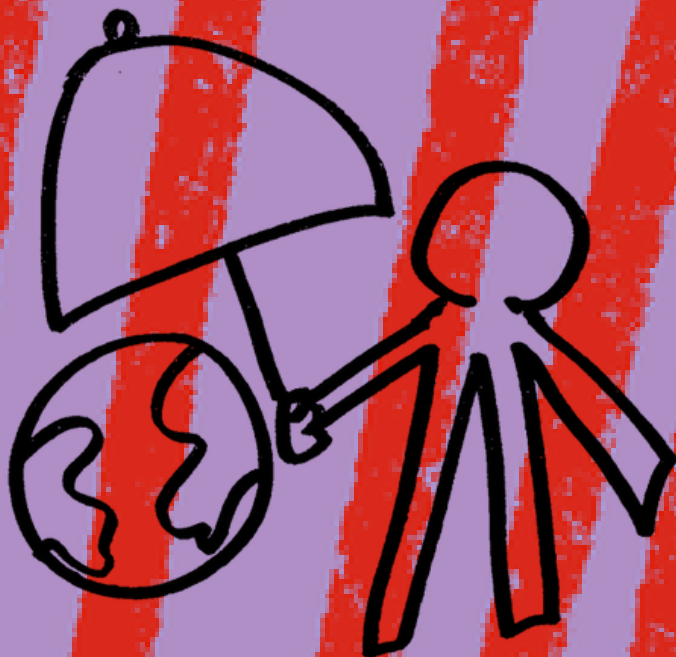
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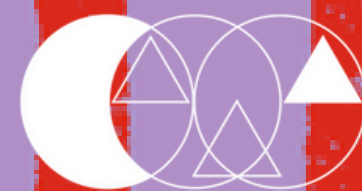
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IDENTITY DISCUSSION PROMPT #7

**What is important to me?
What are my values?**



**He aha ngā mea nui ki a au?
He aha aku uara?**



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IDENTITY IS MY RIGHT TO BE ME - RESPONDING TO THE POEM

- Read through once as a whole
- Read through a second time and highlight or underline any lines/words/phrases that stand out to you for some reason
- As a class or in pairs share the bits that resonated
- Next respond to some of the following questions:
 - What was your initial response to the poem?
 - This poem is about ...
 - How did the poem make you feel?
 - My favourite line in the poem is ...
 - Because ...
 - Things that came to mind as I read this poem were ...
 - Were there any questions you had or words you weren't sure about?
 - What mood did the poem leave you in?



Identity is My Right to be Me

Me being me
How I see the world.

My many names,
I've been given,
Ones I choose,
To share, to keep safe,
To say hello.

My story—
Lived every day
Inside and out,
Connected.

My people—
Born to, gifted, and chosen.
Culture, my part of many.

My place—
A land of birth,
My home where I stand.

Woven with
How I feel and belong,
How I think and believe.

Words can hurt or uplift.
What others say matters.
What I say does too.

My experiences—
Liked and disliked,
What has happened to me.

They push and pull,
And shape me new.

Everything to do with me
Transforms and builds me,

To what I am...

Anchored
To before, to now,
To who I'll be tomorrow.

I need to try new,
Need to make mistakes
To find my right.

To look to my horizon,
Toward who I wish to become.

Supported to grow and change
Into the best me.

The many layers of me,
Part of the universe of we.

Identity is my right to be me.

This poem was created through workshops with tamariki and whānau across Tāmaki Makaurau, inviting reflection on identity—what makes us who we are, how we belong, and how we grow. It was inspired by Article 8 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which protects every child's right to identity—name, family, and nationality—as part of their human rights.

Curated by Emma Hinton (The Light Library) and Lizzy Lockhart (Save the Children NZ), the poem weaves the voices of children into one shared expression: *identity is our right to be ourselves.*

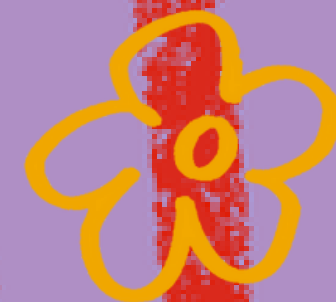


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Extra wero (challenges):

- Take the title of the poem: “Identity is My Right to be Me” and create your own poem in response
- Create an illustration or set of illustrations to show how
- Write a similar poem about one of the other rights of the child (see our Children’s Rights handout to read the full list)

