

**Easy to read**

**A report about what children and young people around the world think of their care if they do not live with their parents**

**The care they get is called Alternative Care**

Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated

**Make Our Voices Count. September 2021.**

Original report byKate Butler, Vanessa Currie Katie Reid and Laura Wright from the International Institute for Child Rights and Development.

# About this report

A picture containing venn diagram

Description automatically generated

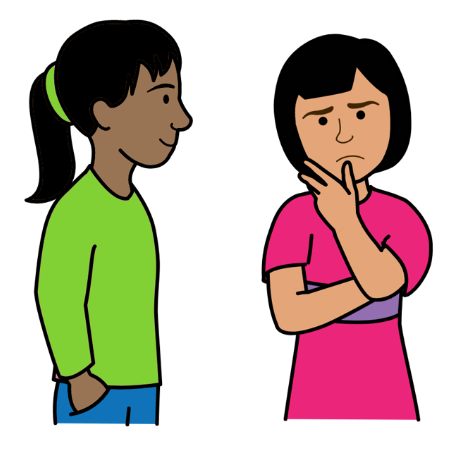
A group of people posing for the camera

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

We are a group of people from different countries who do research.

Research is when you look into something to find out more.

Our research group includes children and young people.



We wanted to find out what children and young people think about their care if they do not live with their parents.

Shape

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Some children and young people live away from their parents.

For example, because their parents do not get the right support to look after them.

A group of people standing in front of a computer screen

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceThe children and young people live in other places instead.

For example, they might live with other people in their family.

Or they might live in homes for children.

This is called **Alternative Care**.

A picture containing rectangle

Description automatically generated

This report is about what children and young people told us about their care and what they want to change.



This report is for a meeting in September 2021.

The meeting is about care for children who do not live with their parents.

People from around the world will be at the meeting.

The meeting will be run by a group of people who know a lot about the rights of children.

They are called the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

They check that countries are giving children their rights.

A picture containing clipart

Description automatically generated

Rights are things that everyone has.

For example, all children have the right to be safe and treated fairly.

But that is not always happening.

A black and white photo of a book

Description automatically generated with low confidence

There is a document about the rights of all children in the world. Many countries have promised to follow it.

The document is called the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

# Diagram Description automatically generatedHow we found out what children and young people think

We asked children and young people some questions about their care.

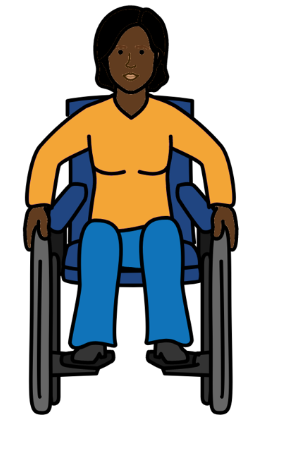
We did this in April and May 2021.

A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generated

Most children and young people answered the questions on the internet.

They could answer in different languages.

A picture containing clipart

Description automatically generated

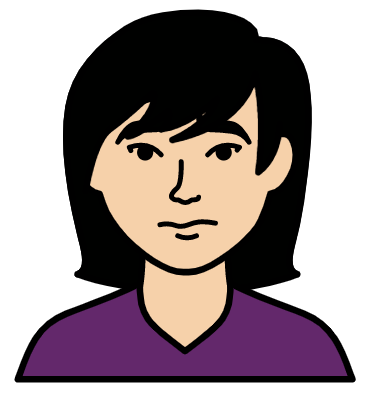
Many children and young people around the world answered the questions.

A person holding a computer

Description automatically generated with low confidenceThey were between 5 and 25 years old.

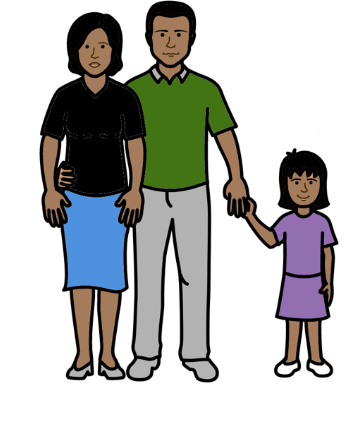
Their answers will help people to know what is happening to children and young people and what needs to change.

# The main things that children and young people told us

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**Better support to keep children and young people with their parents if possible**

Life is hard for many children and young people who live away from their parents.



It is best for children and young people to stay with their parents if possible.

Children and young people should only live somewhere else if there is no other choice.

A group of people posing for a photo

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Families should get support to stay together first.

That should happen before children are taken away from them.

The support might be things like:Shape, logo, company name

Description automatically generated

* Money to buy things they need
* Free education A person and person looking at a calculator

  Description automatically generated with medium confidence
* Learning skills to get a job
* Support to be happy and love each other
* Extra support for children with disabilities



There should be good training and support for parents who need it.

This can help parents to care for their children in the best way.

For example, it can help them to listen to their children and stop using violence.

A picture containing clipart

Description automatically generated

Parents should also get support to feel better if they find things hard.

That includes having a break if they need it.

It should be OK for parents to ask for help.

A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generatedSupport like this can help to keep families together.

Children and young people should help decide what the support for parents is like.

**Give children and young people better care if they live away from their parents**

A picture containing clipart

Description automatically generated

Children and young people told us some things that were important to them.

For example:

Brothers and sisters should stay together if they live away from their parents.

Icon

Description automatically generated

Children and young people want to feel loved and cared for.

A person sitting in a chair

Description automatically generated with low confidenceChildren and young people want support from the same people all the time if possible.

A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generated

People who care for children and young people should get the support they need to keep working.

A picture containing text

Description automatically generated

Adults should be kind and spend time with children and young people.

They should get to know them and try to understand them.



This will help children and young people to trust them.

Children and young people need to be safe from violence and other bad things.

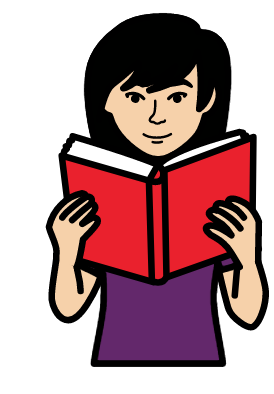
Shape

Description automatically generatedChildren and young people should get everything they need to be safe.

For example: Icon

Description automatically generated

* Healthy food and clean water
* Health care and education
* Somewhere safe to play



* Someone safe to talk to in private if there is a problem
* Information about their rights
* Good support to feel happy and well

A picture containing text, vector graphics

Description automatically generated

Children and young people also said they need:

* Fun
* Time with their friends
* Time to be alone

A picture containing clipart

Description automatically generatedThe government should check the care that children and young people get and solve any problems.

They should ask children and young people what they think of their care.

A picture containing whiteboard

Description automatically generated

Adults should get training to help stop violence and bad things happening to children and young people.

Adults includes parents, teachers and people who care for children and young people.

A picture containing clipart

Description automatically generated

Children and young people should get support to keep in touch with people who are important to them.

A child in a wheelchair

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

All children and young people who live away from their parents should be treated fairly.

They should get the support they need.

This includes girls and children with disabilities.

A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generatedChildren and young people should get support to be who they want to be.

This includes support to do with:

* Their culture. Their culture is about things like their language, religion and where their family are from
* Who they are and who they might want relationships with
* Their life in the past before they left their parents

A picture containing clipart

Description automatically generated

**Listen to children and young people**

Adults often leave children and young people out when they make plans and decisions about them.

That needs to change.

A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generated

Children and young people have the right to speak up and have their say about the care they need.

They should get the support they need to have their say

A picture containing clipart

Description automatically generatedShape

Description automatically generatedA person in a green dress

Description automatically generated with low confidenceAdults should get training about how to listen to children and young people and make sure they have a real say.

Children and young people should help with the training.

A picture containing text

Description automatically generated

**Better support during Covid-19**

Adults should ask children and young people what they need because of Covid-19.

Covid-19 is an illness that many people in the world have been getting.

Icon

Description automatically generated

Covid-19 has made life very hard for many children and young people that we heard from.



For example, many children and young people could not see friends or family or go to school during Covid-19.

That made many children and youngpeople lonely, worried or sad.

A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generated**Better support for children and young people when they leave care**

Leaving care can be hard for children and young people.

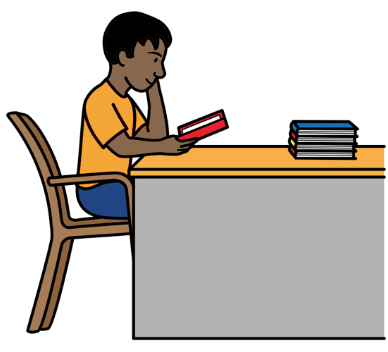
This includes when they leave one place to get care somewhere else.

A person sitting at a table

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Children and young people should get the right support after they leave care.

The support should not just stop.



They might need support with many things.

For example:

* A picture containing text, vector graphics

  Description automatically generatedSupport to feel OK
* Support with money, education and jobs

All of these things will help children and young people to get their rights.

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