



Infants have Rights too.

All children have rights including babies and very young children.

“Infants and children have an additional set of rights, due to their vulnerability including the right to protection from abuse and the right to be cared for” AAIMH.

Every child, including infants and young children, possesses inherent rights; civil, cultural, economic, political, and social. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) encapsulates these rights within the context of children's lives and experiences. The rights outlined in the UNCRC are interconnected, supporting each other; thus, advocating for one right, such as the right to engage in play, inherently advances other rights, including the rights to expression, development, and education.

Even before comprehending the concept of children's rights, young children can develop a sense of agency, nurtured through relationships with caregivers and their environment. Early interactions shape their self-perception, attitudes towards others, and responses to their surroundings.

It is essential for caregivers to empower babies and young children to make decisions and ensure their voices are heard, fostering an environment where their ideas and choices are respected.

Through their interactions, children learn about their rights, the importance of self-expression, their connections with others, and their place in society. Early childhood serves as a pivotal period for the realisation of these rights, and positive early experiences increase the likelihood of children fulfilling their rights throughout their lives.

However, the needs of infants do require further consideration. There is a fundamental difference between infants and older children that being infants and toddlers are **“totally dependent upon the availability of consistent and responsive care from specific adults for the adequate development of their basic human capacities”** WAIMH 2016.

[WAIMH Position Paper on Rights of Infants](#)



[AAIMH Rights of Infants](#)

