Meerilinga™
promoting positive childhoods

Children's Rights
WITH PICTURES

written and illustrated by the children of Meerilinga

Children's Week is all about YOU!
It's a special week where we celebrate how amazing children are. You have the right to feel safe, to learn and play, to be listened to, and to be treated fairly – no matter who you are or where you live.

At Meerilinga, we've been helping celebrate Children's Week in WA for a long time. We believe every child should have a happy, fun, and caring childhood.

Meerilinga presents
CHILDREN'S WEEK™

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is a special promise made by leaders from many countries including Australia.

They agreed that the children, no matter where they live, who they are or what they believe should be treated fairly and have rights. These are the things that every child needs to grow up safe, happy and healthy.

In 1989 countries came together and wrote down 54 important rights for children under 18.

All these rights are important and no one can take them away from you.

The Teachers and Educators at Meerilinga Kingsley have been helping the children learn about their rights.

The drawings are how the children understand their rights.

ARTICLE 2:

All children have the right to be treated fairly. It does not matter where you live, what you look like, if you are a boy or a girl or what language you speak - you have the same rights as every other child.

"We are all different but we still need to be kind to our friends"
Pippa

ARTICLE 5:

Your family helps you learn what is right and safe.
As you grow bigger, you can start making more choices for yourself.

"I share toys with my brother"
Abbigale

ARTICLE 6:

You have the right to live, to be cared for, and to grow healthy and strong.

"Every Child has the right to be alive. We eat healthy food to grow and be strong"

Jack

ARTICLE 7:

Every child has the right to a name. Every child belongs to a family and a country.

"We live in Australia and that's
on the planet Earth"
Mara

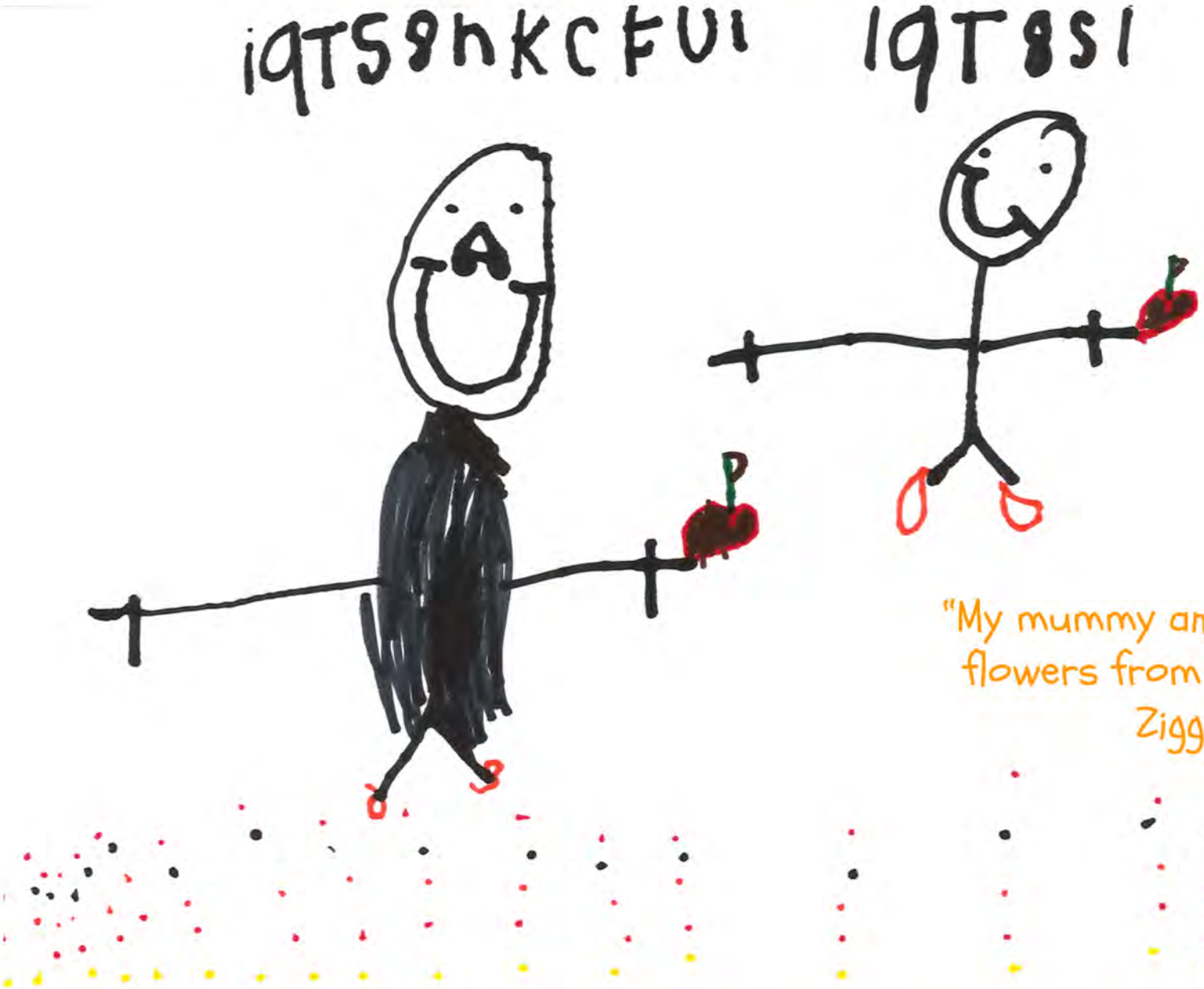
ARTICLE 8:

You have the right to be you. That means having your own name, your own family, and your own story.
No one should take that away

"We all have names from our mums and dads when we are born" - Macey

ARTICLE 9:

You have the right to be cared for and loved by your family.



"My mummy and myself and flowers from my garden"
Ziggy

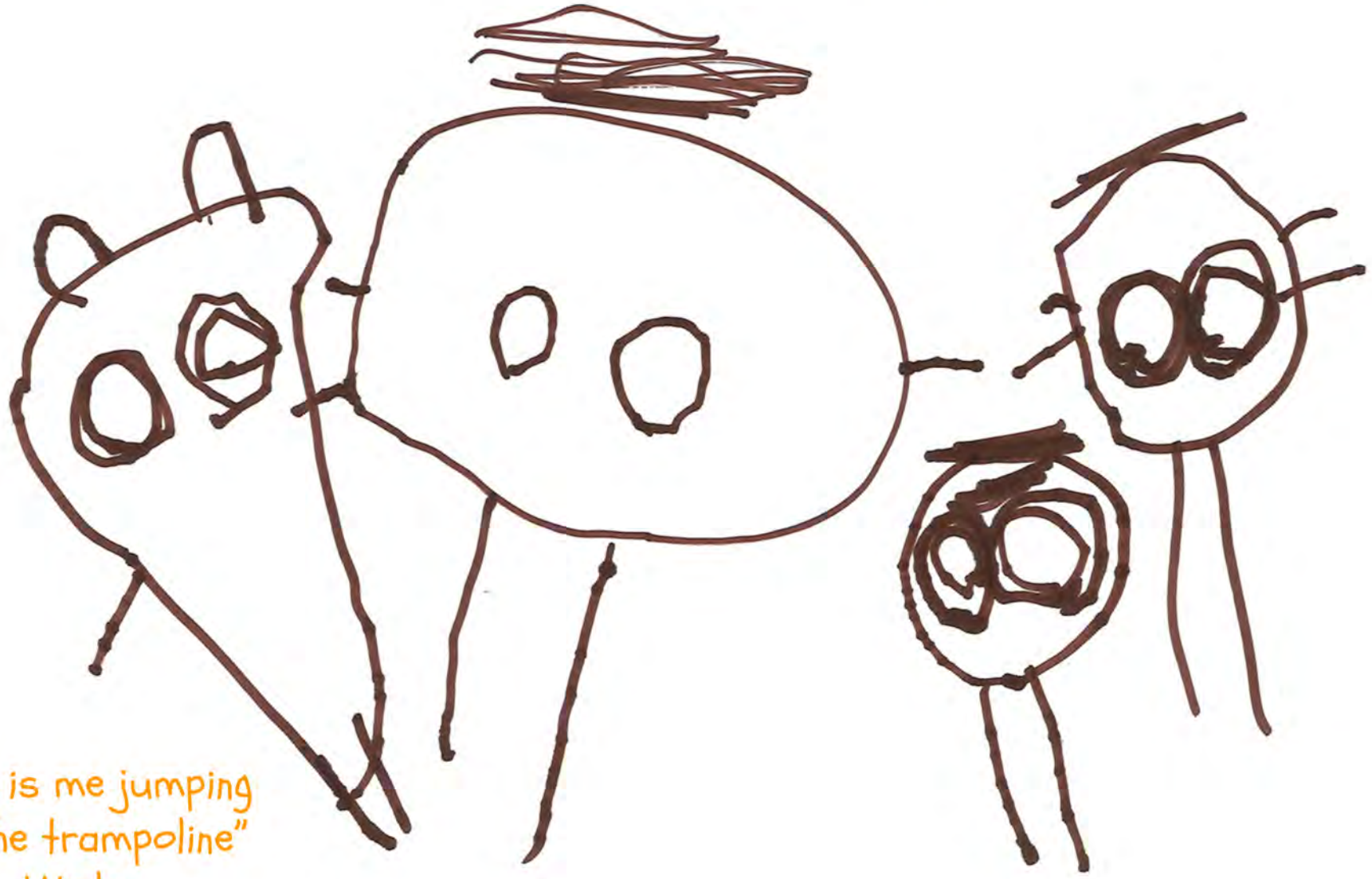
ARTICLE 12:

You have the right to share your thoughts and ideas and have grown-ups listen to what you say.
Your voice matters.

"I have the right to share things with my mum"
Henley

ARTICLE 13:

You have the right to share your thoughts in different ways. You might like to do this by talking, drawing, singing or playing.



"This is me jumping on the trampoline"
Wade

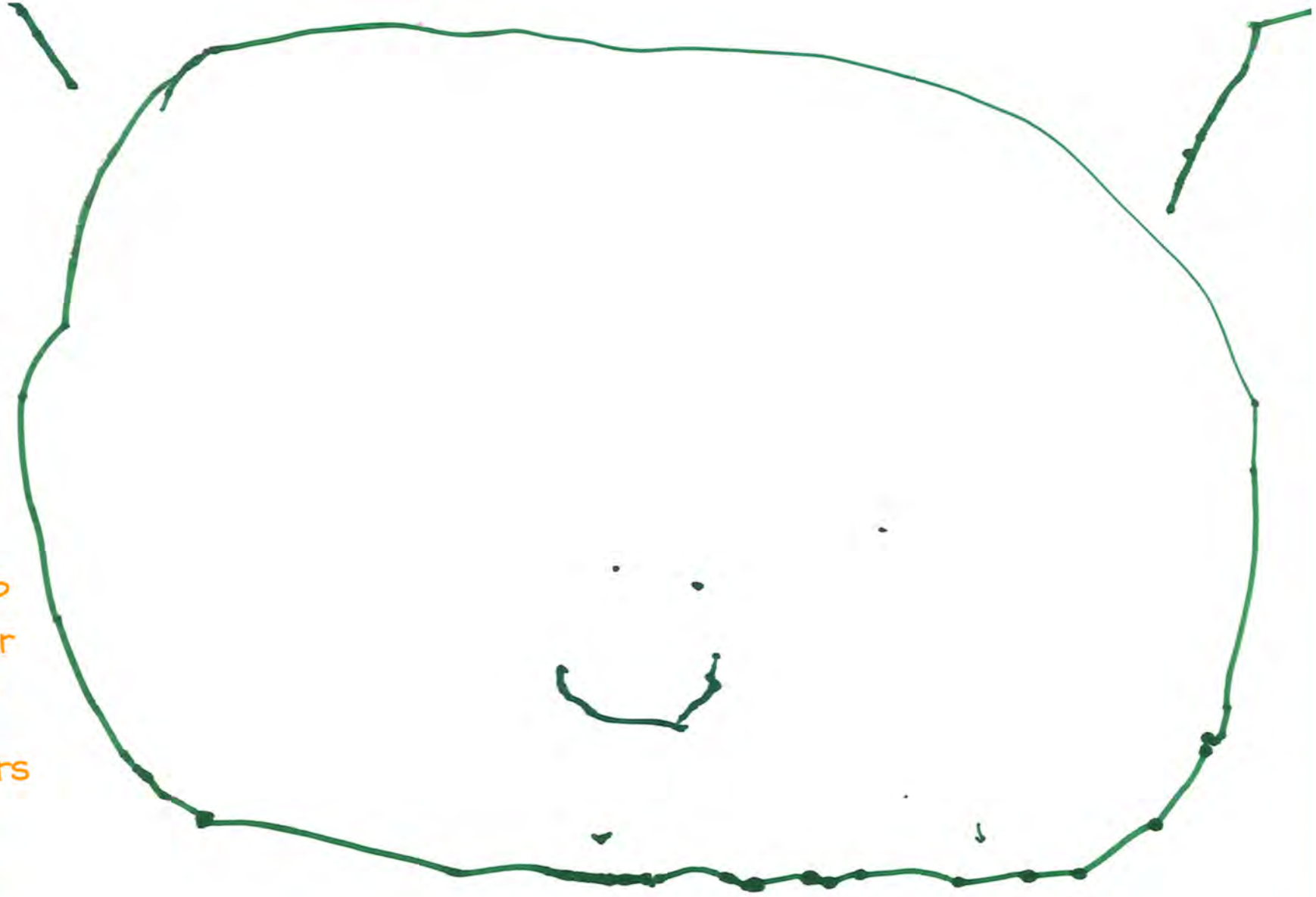
ARTICLE 15:

Children can make clubs and play games together.
You have the right to join in with friends and be part of a group.

"Everyone has the right to be with their friends and family at school and the park"
Everly

ARTICLE 16:

You have the right to privacy. That means some things are just for you.



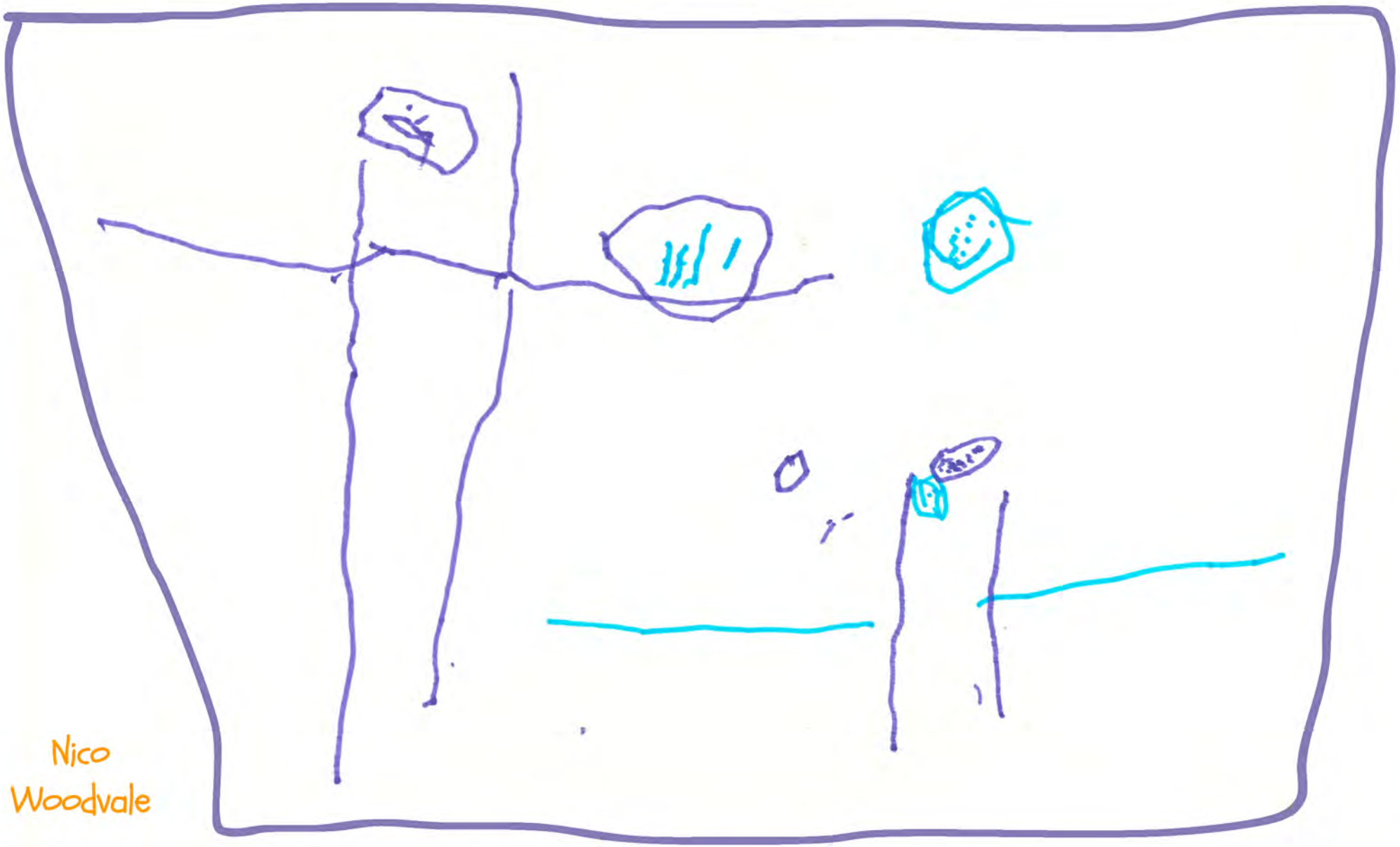
Shut the door to the toilet, shower and bathroom

Don't touch others private parts

Being Alone

ARTICLE 19:

You have the right to be safe and protected from being hurt or treated badly.



Nico
Woodvale

ARTICLE 24:

You have the right to have medicine and help from doctors when you're feeling unwell.

"Doctor. Apple, water bottle".

ARTICLE 27:

You have the right to have clean water to drink, clothes to wear, healthy food to eat, and a safe house to live in.

"The right to drink water"
Eloise

ARTICLE 28:

You have the right to go to school and learn new things.

"I like the right to go to school – my mum and dad let me go to school"

Quinn

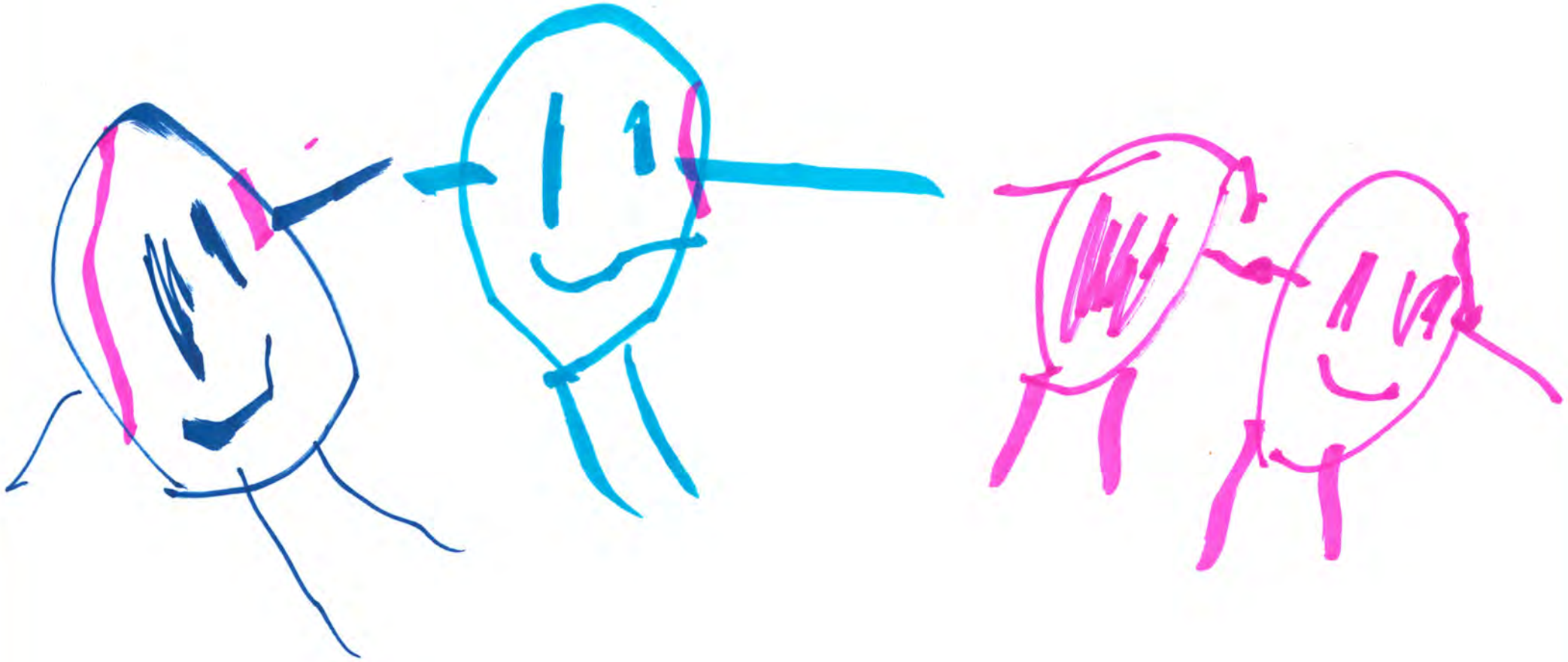
ARTICLE 30:

You have the right to speak your family's language, sing your family's songs, and share your family's special days - even if others do something different.

Wanjoo Welcome
Bonjour
Ciao
Kia Ora
Hello Everyone
Kaya Everyone
G'day
Salam Everyone
Ola
Hola

ARTICLE 31:

You have the right to play, relax, and rest.



Alayna – Ballajura

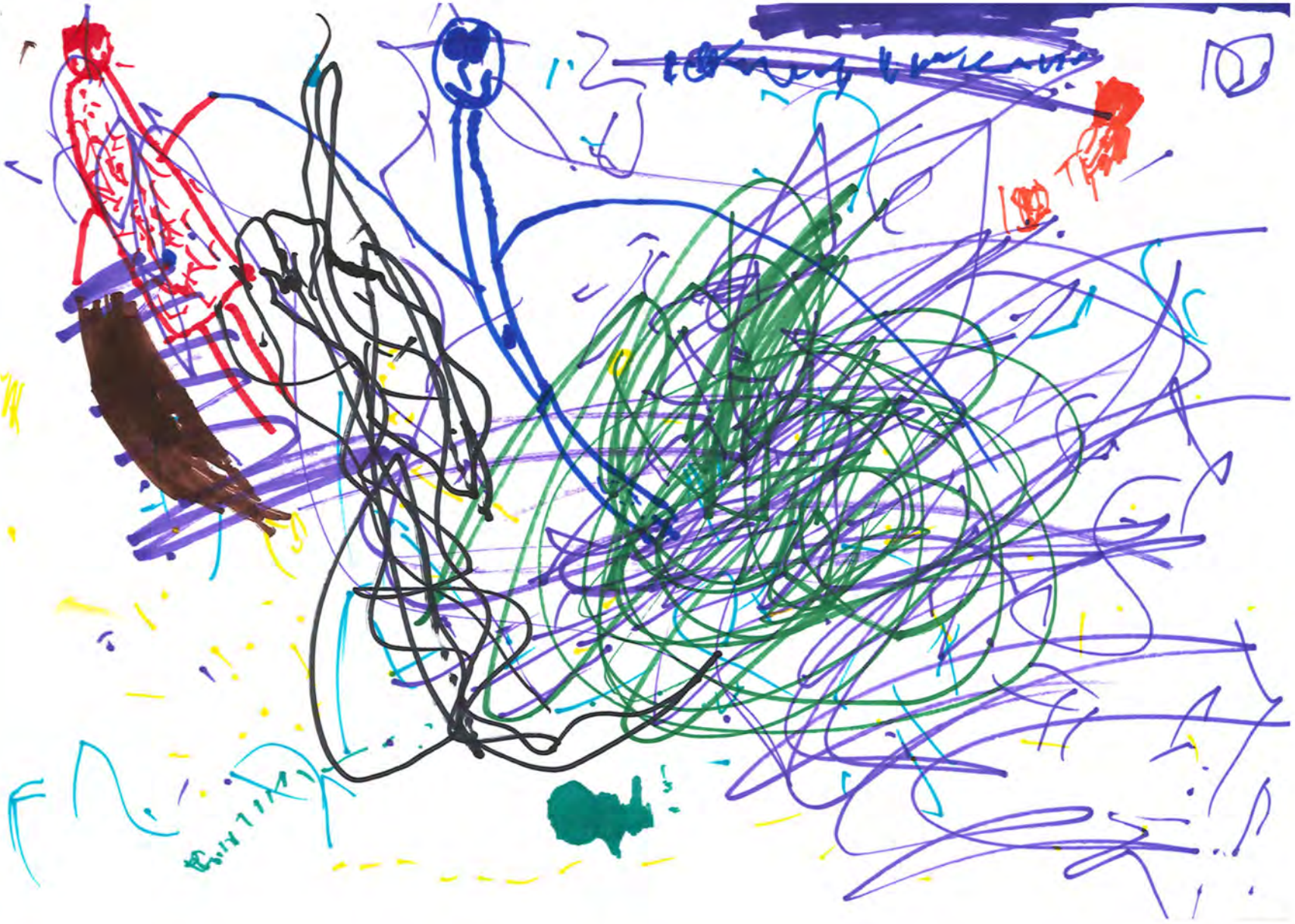
ARTICLE 34:

You are the boss of your body. You have the right to say what happens to your body, and grown-ups must listen and keep you safe.

"You can say 'Stop it, I don't like it'."
Ava

ARTICLE 42:

Everybody should know about children's rights!



"I have the right to learn what to teach my rights"
Elodie

Conversation starters to have with your children about Children's Rights

General Starters:

- "Did you know that all children have special rights? What do you think a right is?"
- "What do you think every child in the world should have or be able to do?"
- "If you were in charge of making rules for all kids, what would your top three be?"

Rights at Home:

- "You have the right to feel safe. What makes you feel safe at home?"
- "You have the right to be cared for. Who are the people who take care of you?"
- "You have the right to rest and play. What games or activities make you feel happiest?"
- “Why do you think it's important for every child to be treated fairly?"

Conversation starters to have with your children about Children's Rights

Being Heard:

- "Did you know that you have the right to share your ideas and feelings?
- When do you feel most listened to?"
- "What would you like grown-ups to understand more about being a kid?"

Learning and Growing:

- "You have the right to learn. What's something fun or interesting you've learned recently?"
- "If school could teach anything, what would you want to learn?"

Big Picture:

- "Some children don't get all their rights met. What do you think we can do to help them?"
- "Why do you think it's important for every child to be treated fairly?"

Meerilinga is proud to be the convenor of Children's Week in Western Australia, celebrating and promoting the rights of children as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Children's Week provides a platform to recognise the voices, needs, and contributions of children, while highlighting their right to be safe, heard, nurtured, and respected.

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Meerilinga's Totems

These totems were designed in consultation with local Elders and forms part of Meerilinga's journey towards reconciliation. They represent the organisation's values, vision and the important role children play in community life. Drawing inspiration from Aboriginal culture, where totems are powerful connections to Country, family, and identity, Meerilinga's Totems act as visual reminders of their commitment to nurturing children, strengthening families, and building strong, connected communities.

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Meerilinga acknowledges the traditional custodians of Noongar Boodja. We seek to continue our journey respecting all cultures and strive towards reconciliation.

"We sincerely thank the children from the Meerilinga Services for lending their voices to express their rights, and for bringing them to life with such wonderful illustrations.

Your creativity and input have been vital in shaping this book, and we are delighted to share it with the community."

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meerilinga.org.au
childrensweekwa.org.au