

Outline of the Basic Act on Children's Policy

Purpose

Based on the spirit of the Constitution of Japan and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, this Act comprehensively promotes child-related measures aiming at the realization of a society where all children and youth (defined as people in the process of physical and mental development; the same applies hereinafter), who lead the society of the next generation, can build the foundations for the lifelong development of personality and equally thrive as independent individuals, where the rights of children and youth are protected regardless of their physical and mental conditions, the environments surrounding them, etc., and where they can live happy lives into the future.

Basic Principles

- ① Ensure that all children and youth are respected as individuals, have their fundamental human rights guaranteed, and are protected from discriminatory treatment.
- ② Ensure that all children and youth are equally guaranteed the right to welfare to be adequately fostered, afforded the guaranteed level of life, loved and protected, etc. and that they are granted equal access to education based on the spirit of the Basic Act on Education.
- ③ Ensure that all children and youth have opportunities to express their views in all matters affecting them in accordance with their age and maturity, and have opportunities to participate in various social activities.
- ④ Ensure that respect for the views of all children and youth, and their best interests are given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity.
- ⑤ Based on the understanding that the family is the foundation for child-rearing and that parents and other legal guardians have the primary responsibility for it, ensure sufficient child-care support and adequate nurturing environment for children who have difficulty being cared at home.
- ⑥ Establish a social environment where people can have hope for having families and parenting as well as experience the joys of parenting.

Responsibility

- Responsibility of the national and local governments
- Efforts of employers and citizens

White Papers and General Principles

- Publishing annual reports (statutory white papers) and Establishing general principles for child-related measures

(*To be established integrally with the white papers and general principles for the three existing laws; Basic Act for Measures to Cope with Society with Declining Birthrate, Act on Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People, and Act on Promotion of Policy on Child Poverty).

Basic Measures

- Reflect the views of children, youth and people raising children in measures.
- Develop systems to provide support comprehensively and integrally.
- Ensure mutual organic collaboration among stakeholders
- Raise Awareness of this Act and the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Enhance the measures through the general principles and take necessary financial measures, etc.

Council for the Promotion of Child-Related Measures

- Establish the Council for the Promotion of Child-Related Measures, chaired by Prime Minister, in the Children and Families Agency
 - ① Prepare a draft of the General Principles for Child-Related Measures
 - ② Promote deliberation of important matters of child-related measures and the implementation of the measures
 - ③ Mutually coordinate among the relevant administrative organs, etc.
- In preparing the draft of the General Principles, the Council will devise the necessary measures to reflect the views of children and youth, people raising children, and private-sector groups.

Supplementary Provisions

Effective date: April 1, 2023

Review: Five years after this Act enters into force, the Government is to review the necessary measures to further promote child-related measures in accordance with the Basic Principles.