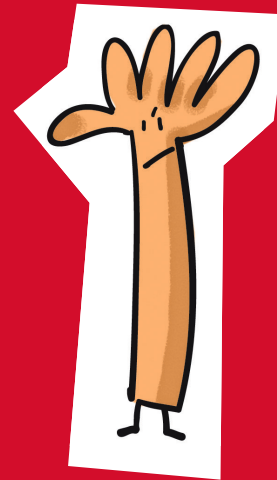
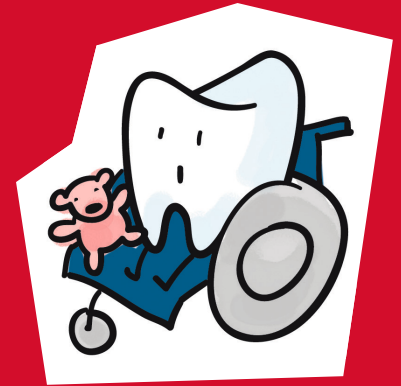
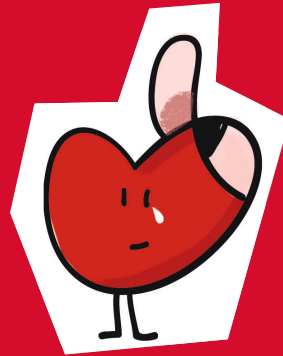


Terrified Tooth, Heavy Heart, Limping Leg and Aching Arm Get their Lives Back

A Short Tale about Children's Rights in the County



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Once upon a time there were four friends who were down on their luck. Terrified Tooth felt like something was missing in her life, Heavy Heart had trouble getting out of bed in the morning, Limping Leg had lost his sense of wholeness and Aching Arm suffered from uncontrollable temper tantrums. They set off together in search of the Magic Healers.

Denise the Dentist helped Terrified Tooth scoot into the chair under the bright light, smiled knowingly and announced,

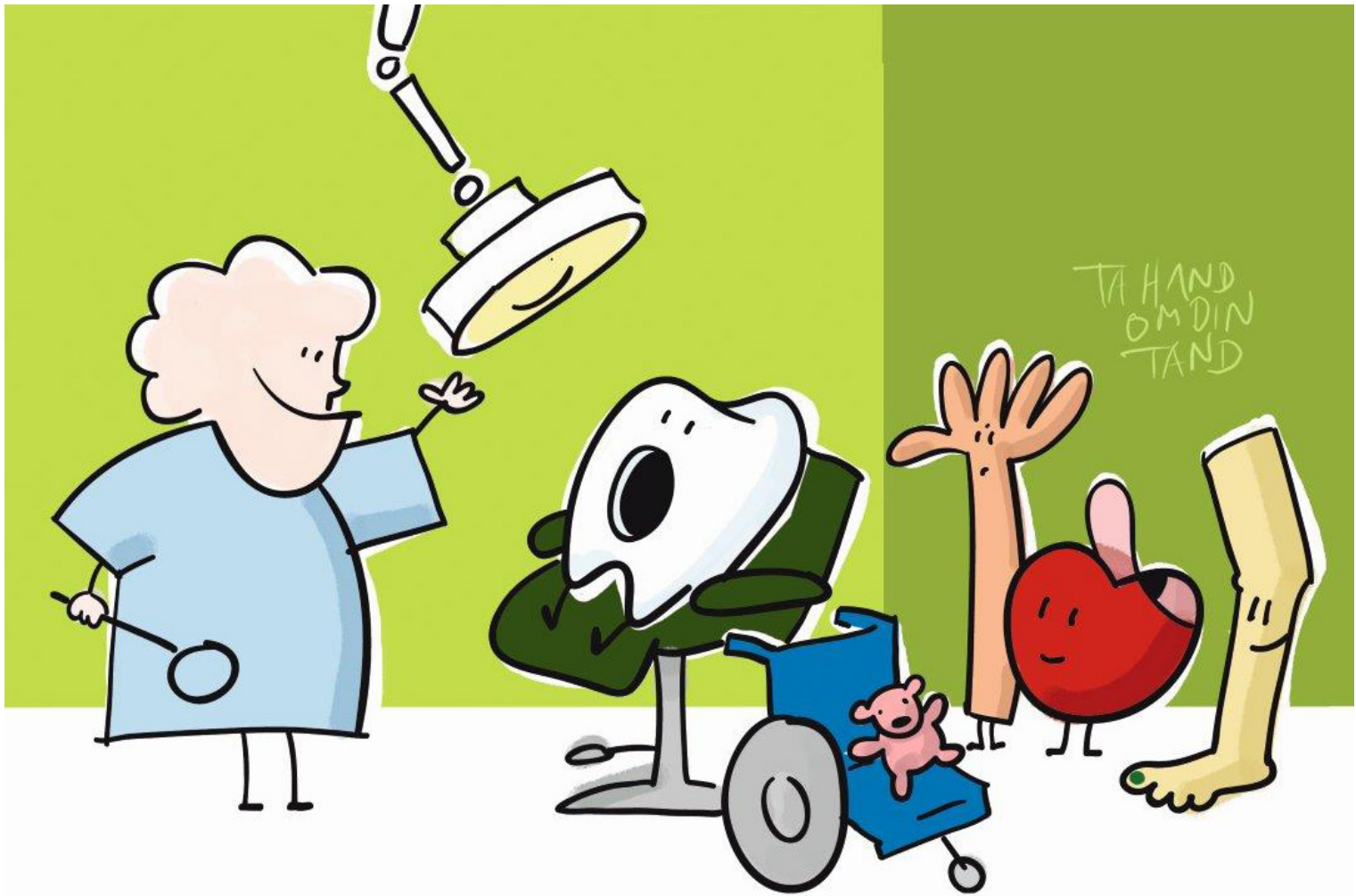
“No doubt about it, you have caries formation caused by acid in the plaque that is dissolving the enamel.”

“Can’t you talk like a regular person?” Terrified Tooth trembled. Those ominous words had made the pain even worse.

“So sorry,” Denise the Dentist said, “I guess I got a bit carried away there. A big cavity is all you have and now we’re going to fill it.”

“What a relief!” Terrified Tooth exclaimed and leaned back patiently.

Your child has the right to receive clear information, ask questions and obtain thoughtful explanations



When Terrified Tooth was complete once more, she wheeled away with her three friends to look for someone who could lighten Heavy Heart. They knocked on a door, but the man who answered just shook his head and said,

“This is no place for heavy hearts, only irritated ears.”

The friends continued on their journey and Heavy Heart grew more downcast at each step of the way. Suddenly they heard the patter of small feet behind them.

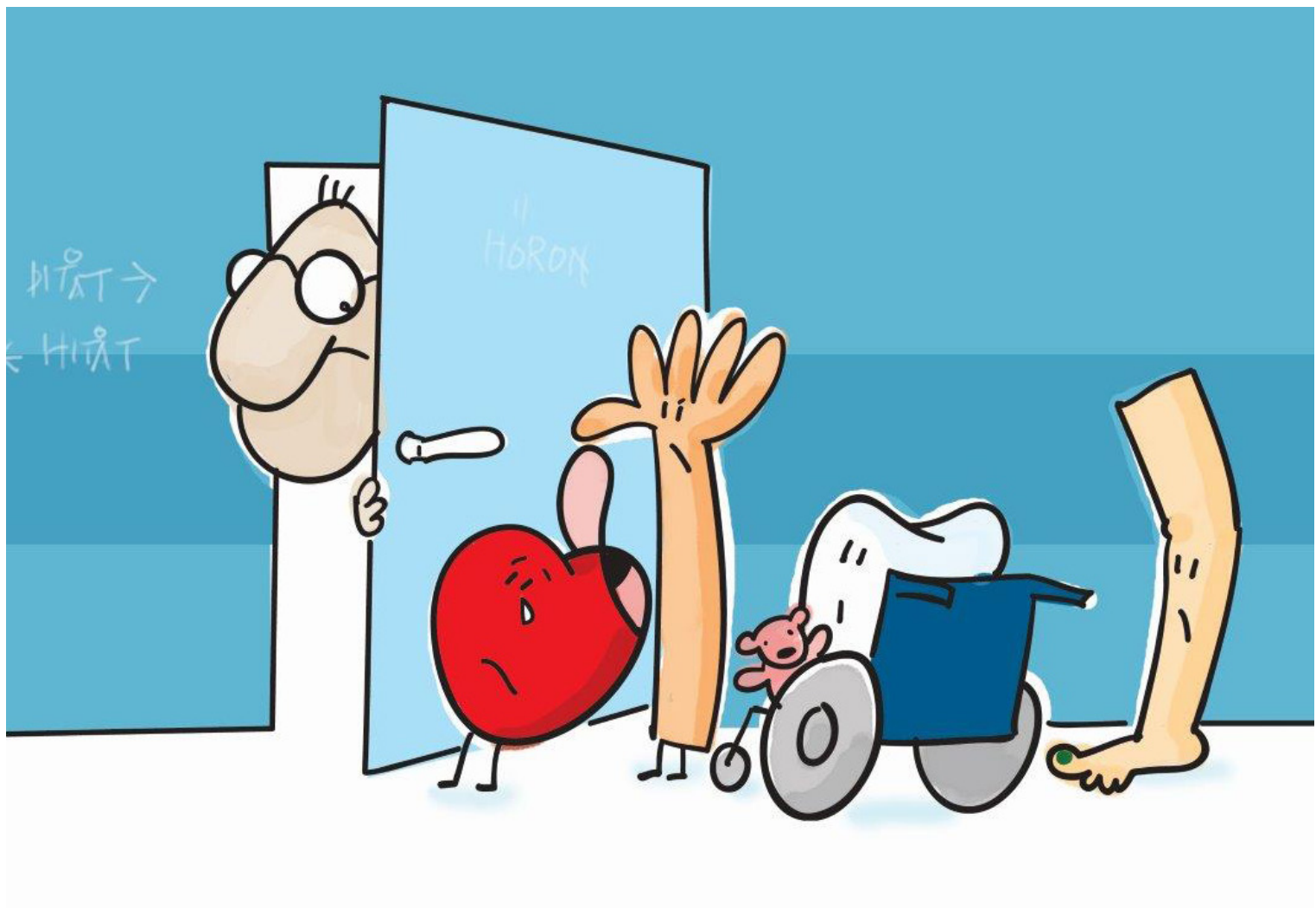
“My little darling,” Nazirah the Nurse sighed, “What on earth are you so sad about?”

“It’s like I’m carrying the weight of the world on my shoulders,” Heavy Heart answered, taking out his handkerchief and wiping away the tears.

“That sounds extremely uncomfortable,” Nazirah the Nurse said. “Come into my office and we’ll find out what is making you feel like that.”

“My pleasure,” Heavy Heart said, “I so want to be carefree and gay again.”

Your child is entitled to treatment, care, courtesy and consideration



And lo and behold, he came out a few minutes later with a big grin on his face, and the four friends hurried off to find a cure for Limping Leg. Donald the Doctor wasted no time with his stern diagnosis:

“You’ve got yourself a nice little fracture there, young man. What you need is a good old cast and you’ll be jumping around again before you know it.”

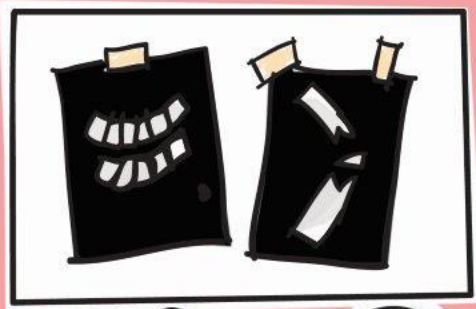
“But aren’t you going to check where the break is with one of those cameras that can see through things?” Limping Leg asked meekly.

“You are absolutely correct, old chap,” Donald the Doctor replied with a new tone of respect in his voice and ever so slight a blush on his cheeks. “Thank you for reminding me. First the X-ray and then the cast, of course.”

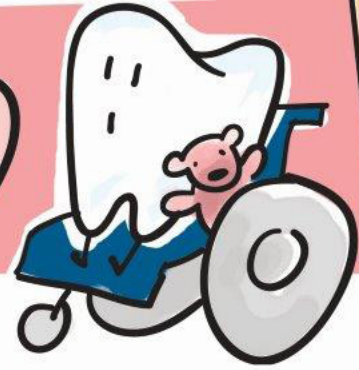
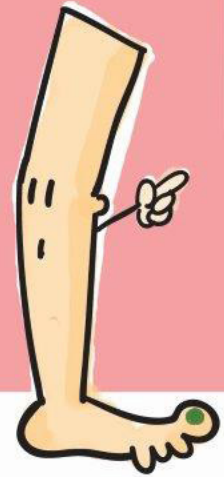
“Love it – that means I’ll have to use crutches for a while,” Limping Leg said, savouring the thought of pole vaulting farther than any of his classmates.

Your child has the right to express opinions about the treatment and care that is provided

HÄNG
PÅTARNA
HÄR



RÖNTGEN →



And sure enough, he was at the front of the pack as they resumed their quest – this time to find a remedy for Aching Arm, who was a bit out of control by now. “Don’t scream so loudly,” Pia the Pain Specialist begged, her hands over her ears as they stepped into her office.

“But the pain is unbearable,” Aching Arm explained, doing her best to lower her voice.

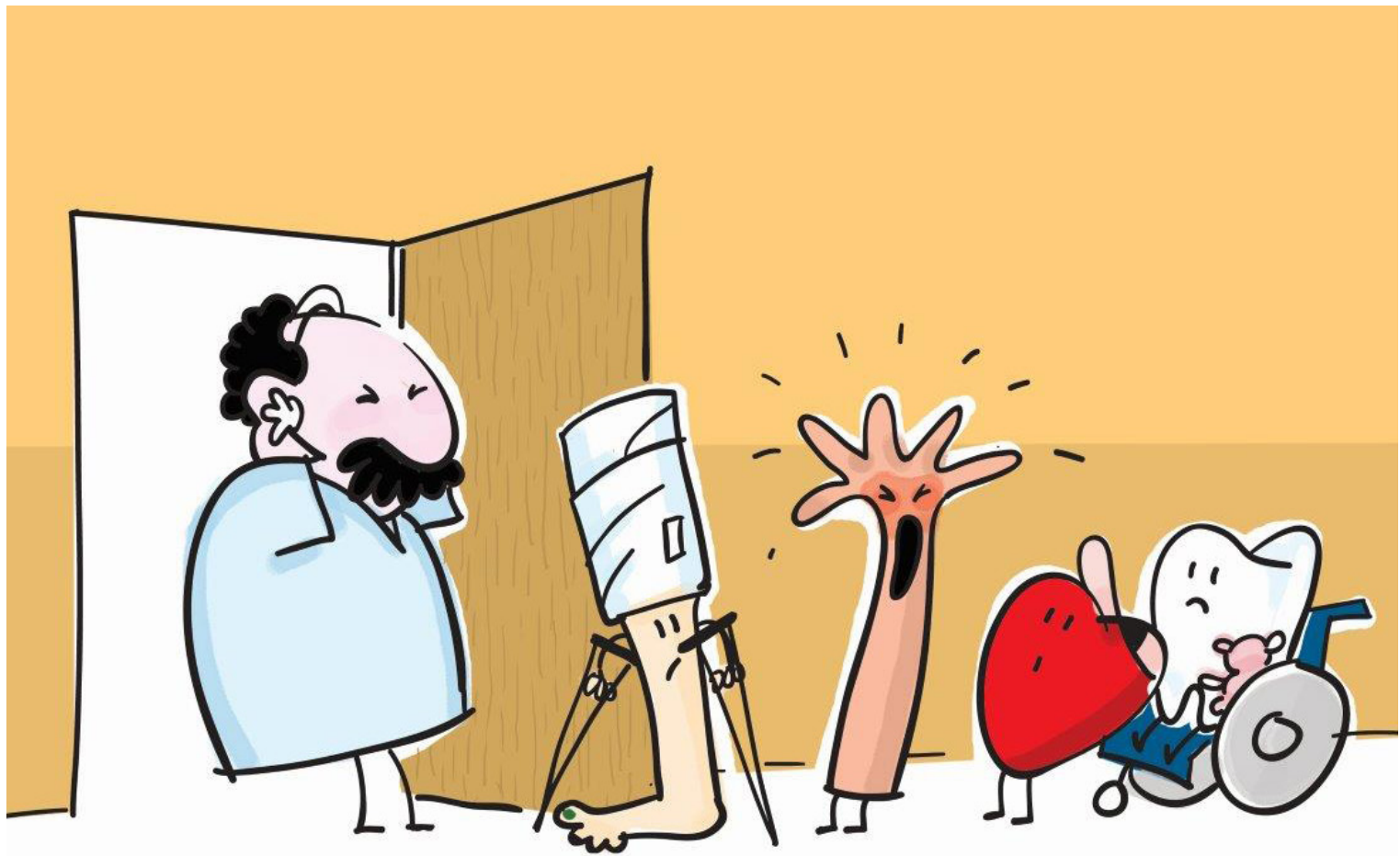
“Which makes me afraid and a little unpleasant to be around, I must confess.”

“I totally understand,” Pia the Pain Specialist said, sitting Aching Arm in her lap to calm her down before starting the examination.

“I’m feeling much better now,” Aching Arm said a while later. “Not so frightened or touchy any longer.”

“That’s my girl,” Pia the Pain Specialist said, “Now we can get to the bottom of this situation. Feel free to scream if I’m hurting you.”

You child is entitled to display fear, uneasiness or anger without caregivers and other adults becoming irritated



And in no time flat, Aching Arm was smiling along with her three friends. Finally Terrified Tooth felt that her life was complete. Heavy Heart looked forward to getting out of bed in the morning and Limping Leg sensed that he was whole again. As for Aching Arm, she was much easier to get along with but tough as ever.

On the way back to the playground, they had nothing but good things to say about their heroines and heroes.

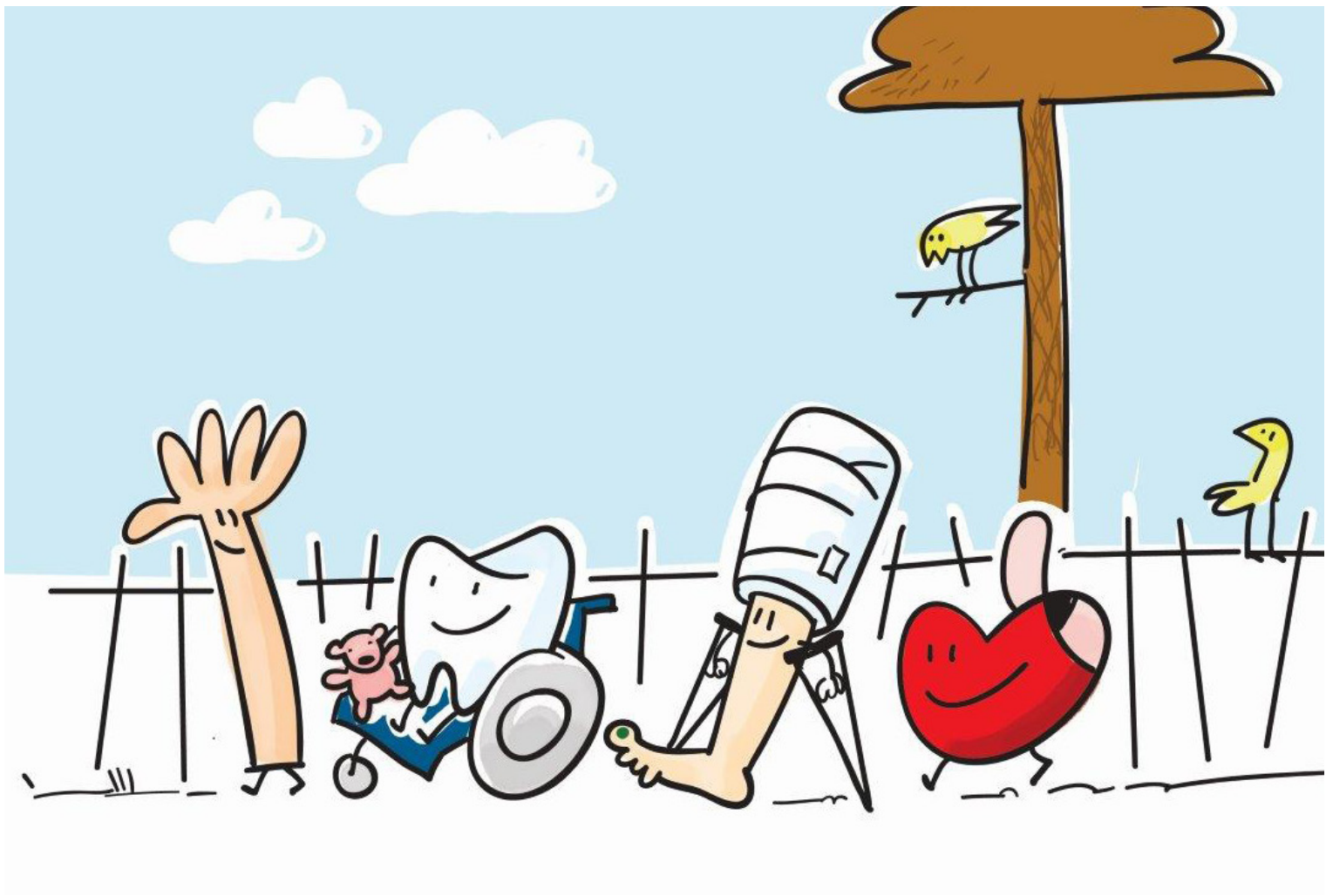
"I like the way Denise the Dentist told me what she was going to do before the drilling started," Tranquil Tooth said.

"Nazirah the Nurse was so kind to me," Happy Heart chimed in.

"Donald the Doctor was a little gruff at first but he was a good listener," Long Leg glowed.

"But Pia the Pain Specialist was the best of all," Artful Arm boasted, "She never lost her cool, even when I was scared and rude."

Your child is entitled to play the leading role in all care and treatment that is provided



Calling all parents:

Your child is the main character

Your child is entitled to play the leading role in all care and treatment that is provided. It doesn't matter if you take your child to a dentist, rehabilitation therapist or doctor.

Your child has the right to ask questions and express preferences. A child's health benefits from the opportunity to participate as age and maturity permit.

Your child is entitled to be inquisitive, bashful, frightened, upset or angry. Your child has the right to treatment, care, courtesy and consideration.

Do your part to make sure that your child's rights are honoured and respected.



Your child's rights according to international law

Virtually every country in the world has adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The preamble to the convention states that all children (people age 18 or younger) have the right to grow up in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding that fully prepares them to live as individuals in society.

Here are some key principles of the convention:

All children are entitled to the same rights without discrimination of any kind (Article 2)

The best interests of the child shall always be a primary consideration (Article 3)

Each child has an inherent right to life, survival and development (Article 6)

Children are entitled to express their views freely in all matters that affect them (Article 12)

All children have the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health (Article 24)

Find out more about the rights of the child:

www.1177.se/Sormland/patientlagen

Ombudsman for Children in Sweden

(www.barnombudsmannen.se)

Children's Rights in Society (www.bris.se)

Save the Children (www.rb.se)