

20. Children's Participation policy and procedure

Children who are capable of forming their own views have the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

(Article 12, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)

"Participation means that it is my right to be involved in making decisions, planning and reviewing any action that might affect me. Having a voice, having a choice."

(The National Standards for Children and Young People's Participation)

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/participationstandards/?lang=en>

In Wales children's rights are supported by the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011. Further information can be found at: www.wales.gov.uk and www.ciw@gov.wales

Bradley Playgroup recognises that involving children in decisions about their care increases their self-esteem and it is our policy to include the voice of the children in our care in all aspects of our work.

We will do this by:

- Ensuring staff (students and volunteers) implement positive attitudes about children's participation in their work.
- Providing training for staff as appropriate.
- Taking account of Having a Voice, Having a Choice (National Standards for Children and Young People's Participation) in our management and staff team meetings.
- Engaging with the children in our care in ways that are appropriate to their age and stage of development to enable their involvement in review and feedback activities. This includes verbal and non-verbal ways of engaging.
- Respecting children's decisions to not engage in review and feedback activities.
- Listening to what children say to us, and taking action as needed.
- Feeding back to children who have contributed and informing them of any actions that have been taken as a result.
- Operating an effective working in partnership with parents/carers policy.
- Involving children in our care in the annual review of the quality of care provided in line with regulatory requirements.

This **Children's Participation** policy and procedure was passed for use in Bradley Playgroup

On: 1st April 2022, 30th April 2021, 01/04/19, 24th April 2018,

Amended on: 17th September 2021, 09th March 2018

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Date of planned review: March 2023