



PLANT YNG NGHYMRU
CHILDREN IN WALES

‘Giving young children a voice’ in the Early Years

Children in Wales is the national umbrella body for organisations and individuals who work with children, young people and their families in Wales. It aims to amplify and supports the voices of children and young people across Wales to be heard, listened to and have influence in decisions that affect their lives; underpinned by the UNCRC.

We need your help to get children’s voices heard. We are currently looking to develop our work to give opportunities for younger children to participate and raise issues that are important to them. We want to ensure their voices are heard by decision makers, policy officers, Welsh Government officials and Ministers.



The UNCRC General Comment No 7 ‘Implementing Child Rights in Early Childhood’ states that as holders of rights, even the youngest children are entitled to express their views, which should be ‘given due weight in accordance with the age.’ Consultation must be appropriate to the child’s capacities and best interests. It requires adults to adopt a child-centred attitude, show patience and creativity by adapting their expectations to a young child’s interests, levels of understanding and preferred ways of communicating.

In order to engage young children in our work we need to engage with Early Years settings. Children need to feel safe and comfortable in their environment in order to express their views. Therefore any participation work done with younger children is best carried out by an adult who has a trusting relationship with them.

This is where we need your help, and want to give you the opportunity to be part of consultation and participation work with the children in your setting, with support from Children in Wales. Any work you participate in and support will help promote the voice of the children in your setting, and highlight your settings, commitment to Article 12 of the UNCRC: every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.

LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

Consultation work may include:

- Observations
- Photos/videos
- Picture based group activities
- Children's drawings
- Games etc



If you would like to get involved and support the work we are doing you will receive the following:

Early Years Resources – including links and resources on Children's Rights.

Events - Receive invitations to attend events throughout the year, including the Children in Wales Annual Conference

Network - Work with us to scope out the possibility of creating a new All Wales Early Years Participation Network in the future, where best practice and training can be shared.

Certificate – of involvement and commitment to Article 12 of UNCRC to display in settings.

To find out more or register your interest please contact

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