



## **Consulting Children**

Participation is a right. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that any child or young person has a right to express their views and have them given due weight in decisions affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity. Participation is not a privilege and it does not have to be earned; rather, it values children and young people as citizens in their own right. For children, involvement and consultation helps them to develop new skills such as negotiating, sharing and understanding the perspectives of others. It helps them to understand how decisions are made, and recognises that their opinions are important.

All children that attend the nursery will be listened to and consulted actively. This will take a number of forms, including:

- Listening to what they say in speech and other forms of communication.
- Observing body language and behaviour.
- Drama and role-play.
- Through play and creative expression and the use of visual aids
- Via regular group based discussions
- Questionnaires and other regular feedback on activities.
- Notice boards that display information about activities at nursery.

Age, maturity and the type of decision being made will determine the extent and nature of children's involvement. However, the emphasis should always be strongly in favour of involving children. The nursery ensures that children have the opportunity to make decisions and/or participate in the following areas:

- Choosing the type of snacks available.
- Choosing how, when and where they have their snack.
- Being involved with the preparation of snack.
- Involved with choosing new toys/ equipment/resources.
- Choosing to play inside/outside when they want to.
- Involved with developing boundaries.
- Contribution to newsletters.

Consultation and involvement will be regularly monitored and acted upon so that children are able to see that their input has led to visible outcomes. The nursery will also be clear about what decisions children will be involved in an attempt to offer clear explanations if and when consultation and involvement is deemed inappropriate.