



Child-friendly communication, its impact on child participation and its benefits for children and adults

CP4Europe Webinar on “Child-friendly communication in crisis situations”



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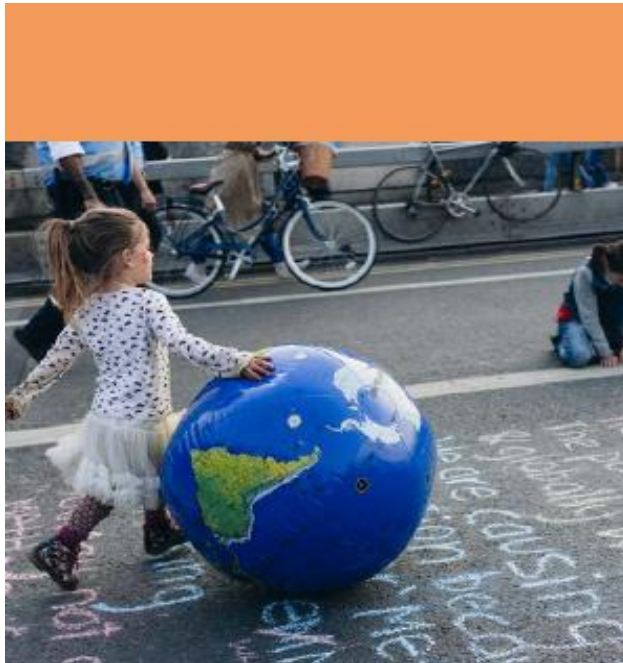


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Legal Responsibility



CoE Standards, initiatives and tools

- The European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights Entry in force: 01/07/2000
- Council of Europe guidelines on child-friendly justice 2010
- The Council of Europe Recommendation to Member States of 28th March 2012 (CM/Rec (2012)2)19
- CP4EUROPE - Strengthening National Child Participation Frameworks and Action in Europe
- Child Participation Assessment Tool (CPAT) and the Handbook on children's participation for professionals working with and for children.

International legal framework

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The 3 Ps
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, Adopted on 19 December 2011, entered into force on 14 April 2014

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Child participation

Features

The concept of participation implies certain characteristics: inclusion, transparency, democracy, communication, equality and empowerment

Unless children are informed, they cannot effectively participate. Keeping children in the dark “in their best interests” is counter productive.

The challenge lies in communicating difficult issues in language that is accessible to each individual child, and in making time to share that information.

- Children are concerned about illness during the pandemic
- Children worry about conflict situations
- Children experience violence
- Children are impacted by forced and planned migration
- Children get caught up in the judicial system



Child-friendly communication



Process

Communication demands a two-way process if it is not to be tokenistic. It demands active and focused attention where adults mindfully:

1. Listen actively
2. Pick up on the emotion.
3. Acknowledge the child's feelings.
4. Try to see the situation or comprehend the story, through the child's eyes.

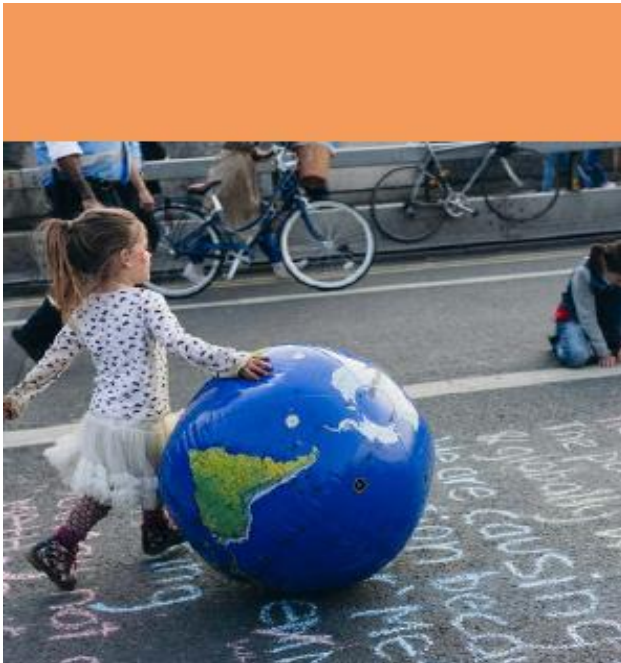
Children may not wish to participate but when they do:

Consultative
Age

Collaborative
Equality

Child-led
Evolving capacities

Ability



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The benefits of child-friendly communication



At personal level

- Improved skills and knowledge
- Improved confidence and self-worth
- Relief from worry
- Reliable information
- Joint goals
- 'Equal dignity'
- Moving from rhetoric to real participation

In general

Ethical approach – accountability and transparency
Safeguarding – promotion of safety and protection

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Thank you for your attention

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