



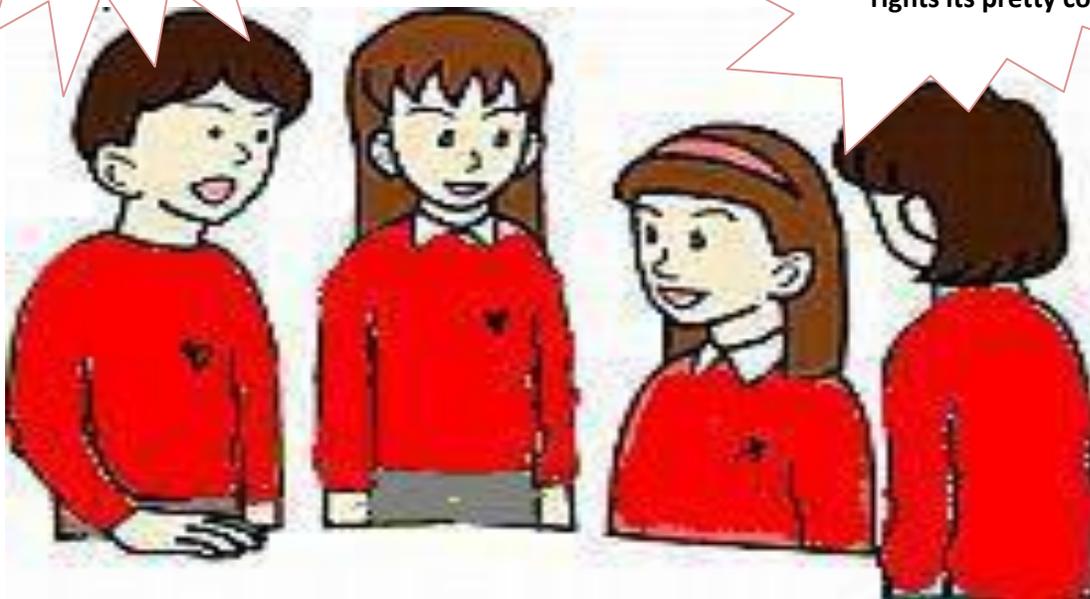
Birmingham PlayCare Network

Consultation

Resource Pack

“Guys what’s consultation?”

“It’s when you make choices about what you want to do and understand you have rights its pretty cool”.



Welcome to the BPCN resource pack on **Consultation**

The purpose of consultation

If children are to be involved in the organisation of their club it is imperative staff continually consult with them this way staff will get the best out of their setting.

Through consultation children will be informed

Understand they have rights.

Receive a rich perception of play.

See the relevance of making decisions.

Express their thoughts and feelings.

Staff will identify how best to meet the needs of children and young people.

This will allow your provision to be child led whilst staff facilitate in the process.

Finding the best way to retrieve information from children may not always be easy, however think about ways you can be creative, inclusive and most of all make the consultation enjoyable.

There are numerous ways to consult with children; if possible try to avoid paper task consultation, sitting children down with pen and paper can sometimes be a frustrating task especially when the children are young.

Once you have compiled the information consider what you are going to do with it and how you are going to put into the practice the choices/decision the children have requested. Consultation can sometimes be a tricky thing to get right. Staff should consider

- Why are we consulting?
- Who are we consulting?
- Are we actually prepared to listen to, and act on, what is said?

If you are not in the position to implement a child's request a good gesture would be to let the child know this. Send them a letter or speak to them on a one -one, this will let them know you have considered their request, and will make them feel special at the same time.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

In 1989, Governments worldwide promised all children the same rights by adopting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential.

They apply equally to every child, regardless of who they are, or where they are from.

The Convention recognises the human rights of children, defined as any person under the age of 18. It sets out in detail what every child needs to have for a safe, happy and fulfilled childhood.

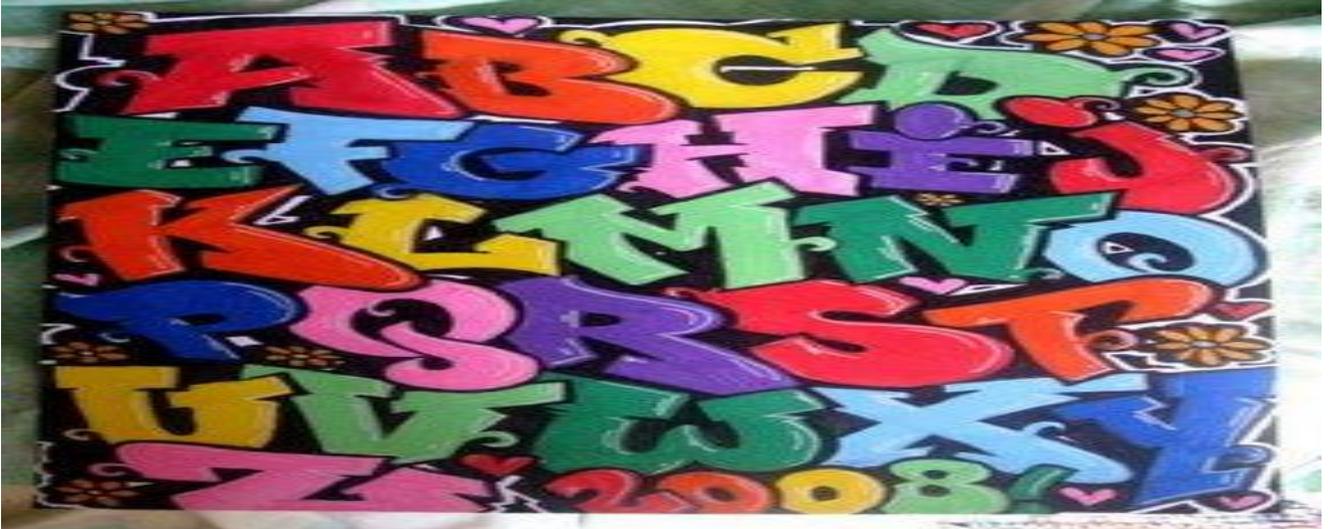
Article 12 states:

‘(1) States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views 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....’

**“Children and young people are the experts on their own lives.”
(Gwynedd Lloyd, School of Education, University of Edinburgh)**

Good luck

Graffiti Wall



A graffiti wall can be a good idea to get the general feel of how you club is doing children love to doodle and this activity can be carried out randomly

Use a large sheet of paper or a roll of wallpaper to cover a wall, start the sentence with words like:

- **Our Club is**
- **We like our club because**
- **Childs name with an empty caption**

Children love to doodle or leave their name marked on places, this will give them the ideal opportunity to do their own graffiti work in a creative way.

Ensure younger children are able to reach the paper ask them to explain about what they have written.

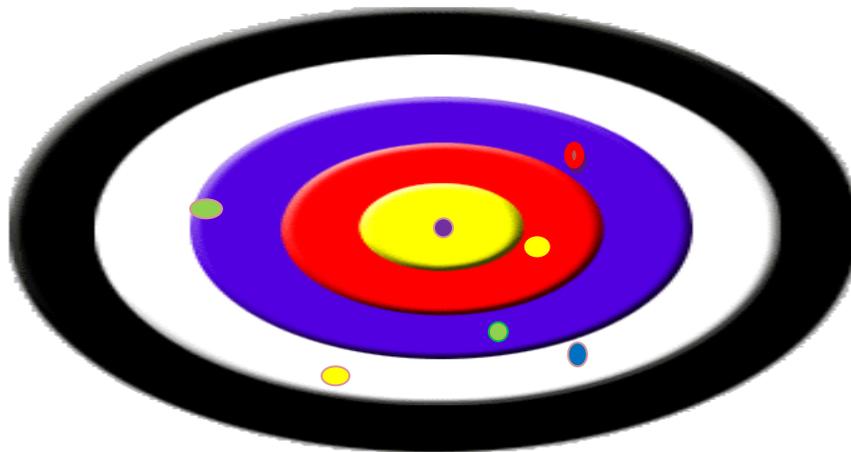
You may only have the consultation up temporarily; it may be a good idea to take a picture of the display

For future reference ask the children if they enjoyed the graffiti wall idea you may want to use this idea again

Look at other ways you can do graffiti; use a canvass or spray paints (remember health and safety when you using spray cans).

Bullseye

A snap shot of the whole day



These can be prompts for further discussion. The closer the sticker gets to the bullseye will be an indicator of how the children feel. Hitting the bullseye will mean staff were right on target!

- Did you have fun today? **Yellow sticker**
- Did you feel listened to? **Red sticker**
- Did you enjoy snack? **Blue sticker**
- Were there enough choice of activities? **Green sticker**
- Was there enough space for you to play? **Purple sticker**

From the stickers you will be able gain an idea of how the children felt the day went. Use the information to verbally discuss any issues with the children.

Star rating



This is an ideal way to retrieve information from children especially those who are not so verbal.

Stick the activity headings around the room

Place a bag of gold, silver and bronze stars on a table

Inform the children they can write their names on the stars if they wish.

Ask them to stick the star rating on the headings gold being excellent and so on.

Here is a list of some activity/topic headings you may want to look at.

- Activities
- Weekly menu
- Resources
- Play space
- Staff
- Access to outside
- Daily routine
- Children's involvement at club
- New activities

By children rating the activities, staff will identify if the activities were successful, beneficial or need to be modified.

A paper consultation

Is useful for finding out topics your setting may want to discuss in detail. If your club has a children's council get the children involved in this process. Once you have established the topics you are going to discuss put up an agenda on a notice board.

Below is a list of topics you may want to discuss with the children

- Do you know you have rights at your club? **At times children are not aware they too have rights and it is the adult's responsibility to ensure their rights are met.**
- Do you know who to go to if you have a complaint? **The setting should ensure there is a system in place and children are informed about this.**
- Have you heard of the term UN Convention on the Rights of the Child? **Children should understand the statements applies to them and allows them to have a voice.**
- Would you like to sit on the children's council for your club? **Let children understand the responsibility of being the spokesperson for their club**
- Do you know the playworkers job? **This will allow children to understand the role of the play worker and their duties.**
- What do you think play is? **This discussion at length will give the children a rich perception of play.**



OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES

www.unicef

www.csie.org.uk/inclusion/child-rights

www.londonplay.org.uk/document

www.lambeth.gov.uk

www.newcastlechildrenservice

www.sheffkids

Remember key words such as:

Why are we consulting?

Who are we consulting?

Act on, what the child has said.