



Standard 3

Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

How do we apply the Standard?

- Make sure children's participation is part of your organisation's practice.
- Create opportunities for children to be included in decision-making.
- Children and young people are given information on a range of support services.
- Equip staff and volunteers to support children's participation.
- Encourage peer support for children and give opportunities for this.
- Ensure adults in your organisation understand what safety means to children.
- Inform children on how adults should behave.

Meaningful empowerment and participation should:

- bring them no harm.
- be voluntary and relevant to their age, maturity and capacities.
- be responsive to individual needs.
- be respectful of culture and diversity.
- address power imbalances.
- include continuous reflection
- loop back with feedback to children and young people what you've learned and how their voice has shaped decisions.

How do we document the Standard?

- Child safe policies that promote children's empowerment and participation.
- Risk management strategies showing that you have identified practices in your organisation that disempower children and describe how to respond to these.
- Posters and brochures with information about support services, or that display messages that encourage children to speak up if something is worrying them or they have feedback, and shows them how to do this.
- Promotional material of the sexual abuse prevention programs and information.
- Keep documentation on the ways you're facilitating feedback from children and young people and document how this feedback was acted upon.

What does it look like in action?

- Ask children and young people to give feedback, help to organise events, become members advisory committees, help produce information and resources.
- Engage children and young people in developing child-friendly versions of codes of conduct.

It can look different for different age groups:

- Toddlers - follow their lead in play experiences and help them to talk about their feelings, teach protective behaviours.
- Early primary age - encourage open communication, share their feelings and opinions, they can design programs and resources, give access to age appropriate sexual abuse prevention education.
- Older children and teenagers - youth friendly ways for them to share their thoughts and feedback.

*how can
we help you?*