

# Child Friendly Cities & Communities Network



## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday 15 September 2022

**Time:** 9.30am - 11.30am

**Location:** Zoom

### CFCC Network Purpose:

*We've come together as a network because we can imagine a world where children are supported and empowered to be active citizens, and individually and collectively, we can make a difference. In our network, we will discover new ways to lead our colleagues and our communities to become child friendly and share with each other examples of good practice.*

**Meeting Chairs:** Virginia Lloyd, City of Casey & Amy Carson, Merri-bek City Council

**Meeting Theme:** Leadership in Children's Engagement & Practice Methods 101

### Guest Speaker:

- Leadership in Children's Engagement  
Lauren Thomas, Senior Project Lead, Child & Youth Participation & Engagement – Australian Childhood Foundation  
Key presentation points:
  - Important to consider how organisations make it possible for children to participate
  - Organisations need various 'touchpoints' for participation; where are children listened to?
  - Need meaningful and authentic participation
  - Guiding parameters on children's participation include National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child and Victorian Child Safe Standards
  - Principles require a whole of organisation response
  - Lundy's model is important to consider in children's participation: Space, Voice, Audience, Influence
  - Ideas to engage leadership in children's engagement include setting up a cross-organisation working group to champion participation, improve participatory frameworks, ensure service delivery feedback from children, encourage CEOs and Directors to engage with children using child-friendly methods.



CFCC Leadership  
Participation.pdf

- Useful resources and information:
  - National Principles for Child Safe Organisations [National Principles | Child Safe Organisations \(humanrights.gov.au\)](https://www.humanrights.gov.au/national-principles-for-child-safe-organisations)
  - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child [Convention on the Rights of the Child | OHCHR](https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-treaties/instruments-treaties-in-force/convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child)
  - Victorian Child Safe Standards [CCYP | The 11 Child Safe Standards](https://www.ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards)
  - Kids Co-Designing Healthy Spaces [Kids Co-designing Healthy Places | Home \(kidscodesigninghealthyplaces.com.au\)](https://www.kidscodesigninghealthyplaces.com.au/)
- Key break-out room feedback on how to engage leadership in children's participation:
  - Children's engagement and participation is an ongoing process, not a one-off event
  - Need to energise and encourage colleagues and organisations to engage with children
  - At these networks, we're often talking to the 'choir', challenging to engage with people who do not see the value of engaging with children
  - Many Councils deliver specific programs which provide opportunities for children's engagement i.e. City of Casey and Brimbank City Council
  - Need people with influence to champion children's engagement.

#### Practice Methods 101 & Panel Discussion:

- Children's Engagement in the Early Years  
Anne McGregor, General Manager, Moreland Early Years Management & Elijah Money, Artist
  - Engaged and consulted with pre-school aged children to develop a plan for an art project at their Kindergarten
  - Elijah, Artist used participatory approaches to engage with children on the art project; used open child-friendly language, visited the children in their 'space' at the Kindergarten where they felt safe and comfortable to express their views
  - Final art project will be dependent on grant funding.

For further information, contact Anne at [gm@meym.org.au](mailto:gm@meym.org.au) or Elijah at [elijah.miima.money@gmail.com](mailto:elijah.miima.money@gmail.com)



C FCC Turner Street  
Kindergarten Childrer

- Developing Solutions with Children, Bundoora Primary School  
Sherryn Prinzi, Community Impact Coordinator, Banyule City Council
  - Recent children's engagement to develop solutions to vehicle congestion at 'drop-off' and 'pick-up' time at a local primary school which posed a risk to children's safety
  - Met with a group of children at the school and discussed the vehicle congestion issues and sought their views to co-design a response
  - Children developed an approach to investigate the issue further with a view to formulating solutions.

For further information, contact Sherryn at [Sherryn.Prinzi@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sherryn.Prinzi@banyule.vic.gov.au)

#### Sharing Practice - Key Engagement & Consultation Questions

- Small group discussion to develop questions that could be used when engaging and consulting with children – see attachment.

**Other items:**

- Children's Week is on 22-30 October 2022 with the theme: *All children have the right to a standard of living that supports their health and wellbeing* drawn from Article 27, UNCRC. For more information visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/childrens-week>
- Child Friendly Cities and Communities Network have a LinkedIn page, follow us at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/victorian-child-friendly-cities-and-communities/>
- Next meeting: Thursday 24 November 2022, 9.30-11.30am.

# Children's Engagement and Consultation



## Ideas, good practice, and tips!

### Key tips:

- It's important to engage children in communicating their ideas early in the process to co-design a response
- Use open-ended questions; what, why, when, who, where and how
- Keep it simple and straight forward, use child-friendly language
- Test your questions with children before you go 'live' to make sure they make sense and are understood

### Safe and inclusive spaces for children

- Consider connection with children to understand their responses i.e. 'trusted source' to facilitate engagement and consultations
- Relationships with children is key; consider asking Educators who work daily with children and have existing relationships to complete consultations, they may be able to better support the responses of children with varying communication methods i.e. pre-verbal and non-verbal
- Need to be mindful of available resources and inclusion for all children of various ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds

### Methods for engagement

- Ask age-appropriate questions in child-friendly language
- Use images to convey and contextualise questions
- Enable non-verbal responses and use activities that can promote these answers i.e. verbal, recording, drawing, artwork, selecting from a range of options
- Can be flexible with questions to understand context and explore meaning
- Use of play during consultations
- Use of tools, resources and props to provide context for children to respond to i.e. photos, materials, colours, stories, tangible items that can help start conversations

### Suggested questions

- Share your thoughts on...? What do you like best about...? Tell me about...?
- What does a child friendly city look like?
- Why should adults listen to children? What do you want adults to know?
- How do you like to share your ideas?