



Policy ... Child Involvement & Consultation

Newby Fun Factory, and all its members of staff, are committed to the principle of involving and consulting children whenever decisions are made within the Fun Factory that affect them.

The Fun Factory believes that actively promoting the participation of children in decision-making processes is beneficial to children, staff and the Fun Factory as a whole.

The Fun Factory's commitment to involving and consulting children stems from the 'listening to children' provisions set out in Articles 12 and 13 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. These state that:

- A child's opinion should be taken into account in anything that affects them.
- Children should have information disseminated in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions.

For both staff and the Fun Factory, there are multiple benefits of such an approach such as improved behaviour, a relationship with children based on partnership, a more cohesive environment and activities and decisions that children feel a sense of ownership over.

The Team Leader and staff will work with children to draw up a charter that will set out the expectations and responsibilities of the Fun Factory, the staff team and the children in respect of consultation and involvement. Parental involvement in drawing up and implementing the charter will also be encouraged.

All children 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.
 - Through play and creative expression and the use of visual aids.
 - Feedback, via regular group based discussions and Q and A sessions.
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- Notice boards that carry important information about activities at the Fun Factory.
 - Regular children's meetings, between children and staff, discussing the Fun Factory's activities and any other relevant topics.

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 Fun Factory and its staff will also be clear about what decisions children will be involved in and attempt to offer clear explanations if and when consultation and involvement is deemed inappropriate.

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