

It is vital children and young people participate in decisions that have an impact on their lives.

It is essential that children and young people:



Engagement

Engage and provide information in a manner which is appropriate to the child or young person's age and development.



Keep meetings relaxed:

- Talk in the car whilst driving
- Meet at informal food outlets
- Wander through a shopping mall or a park
- Chat on the phone
- Engage in an activity like bowling



Find creative ways to facilitate communication:

- Use videos and audio as a form of communication
- Using writing such as shared diaries or consultation forms
- Utilise role play, drawings, drama and songs to express feelings
- Use toys, aps and games to facilitate discussion


Access

Create opportunities for a child or young person to initiate contact.

- Plan and set regular meetings
- Arrange regular drop in sessions
- Try to return calls the same day
- Communicate any leave or reasons for not being available
- Send a text message if too busy to return a call quickly
- Use the communication methods they use; Facebook, What's App, Kik, etc

Trust

A young person needs to understand your role and what to expect from you.

-  Be clear about the boundaries of your position
-  Keep your client informed
-  Be consistent and reliable
-  Never over-promise