

# Children and Young People's Participation in Family Group Meetings

Workshop designed and presented by

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# The 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

- **Article 12**

- That children have the right to participate in decision-making processes that may be relevant in their lives and to influence decisions taken in their regard-within the family, the school or the community

- **Article 13**

- The child's participation is a right and children therefore are free to express their views or, if they prefer, to not do so. Children should not be pressured, constrained or influenced in ways that might prevent them from freely expressing their opinions

## Encouraging and Increasing Children and Young People's Participation

### In the Preparation of a FGM:

- Children and young people offered an **Independent Advocate** professional/ family or peer)
- Advocates **working with** children/ young people **aged 8- 18 years old**
- Advocates **use portable boxes of toys/ crayons/ stickers/ pelt tips** to develop 'star charts'/ wish lists with children
- Co-ordinator & Advocate **provide good quality information on which young people/ children can base their views/ wishes/ demands**
- Children/ young **people provide a strong influence** on who attends the FGM
- Children/ young people are given **real choices about their attendance and how they share their views/ wishes/ demands**
- Young people/ children doing their **own invites**
- Helping decide/buy/prepare **food**
- **Deciding where** everyone will sit at the FGM

# Encouraging and Increasing Children and Young People's Participation

## In the Actual Family Group Meeting:

### The meeting takes place in 3 stages;

- Information sharing
- Private family time
- Agreeing the plan

Young people are involved in all stages.

### Participation is achieved by;

- Adults and children establish Ground Rules
- Advocacy support throughout the meeting
- 'Star chart'/ Wish list presented at whichever stage the child/ young person wants
- Co-ordinator being available during private family time
- The plan to be agreed by all

### After the meeting;

- Advocates and co-ordinators meet the child/ young person for Debriefing
- Advocates and Co-ordinators stay the same for Reviews