



## Child Participation Framework



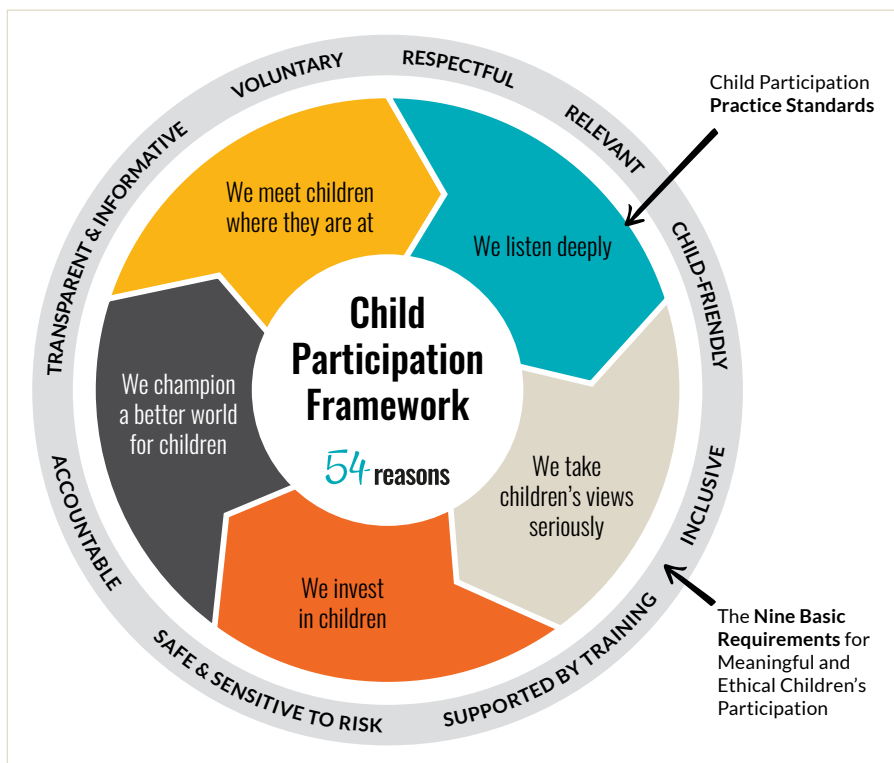
### 54 reasons values children's right to participate in decisions that impact them.

As Australia's leading child rights organisation, with a founder who penned the first draft of what later became the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, we are strongly committed to supporting child agency.

Children who feel like their voice matters are more likely to speak up when they are at risk of harm and feel better connected with their families and communities. Children sharing what matters to them and why helps adults to fulfil their duty to act in children's best interests and make properly informed decisions. In fact, children's right to be heard plays a critical role in children actively enjoying *all* their other rights!

Our **Child Participation Framework** reinforces 54 reasons' commitment to listening to, learning from and growing alongside children. It outlines our responsibilities and intentions as a child rights organisation committed to genuine children's participation, through **Five Child Participation Practice Standards**.

The Standards align with best practice elements of child participation models and research, and adhere to the **Nine Basic Requirements for Meaningful and Ethical Children's Participation**.



## Our Child Participation Practice Standards:

1

### We meet children where they are at

Our approaches are child centred, and take into consideration the diversity of children's experiences, backgrounds, strengths and needs.

Children always feel safe, welcomed and valued with us.

2

### We listen deeply

The way we listen shows children that they matter, and that we take their views seriously.

Children can trust us to listen to what they are saying, and also what they can't say but need us to hear.

3

### We take children's views seriously

We really listen to children, critically consider their views, and walk alongside them in relevant decision making.

Children's views genuinely influence who we are and what we do.

4

### We invest in children

We foster children's participation skills, confidence and self-worth.

We integrate child rights education into our work with children, families, communities and partners so that we can better work together to uphold children's rights.

We share power and agency with children, because we truly believe in the value of children's views and opinions.

5

### We champion a better world for children

We strengthen Australia's child rights environment, advocating for child participation to be understood and valued, and in doing so setting the other rights of children up for success.

We partner with children, families, communities, other services and decision makers to achieve real change.

We always act in the best interests of children.

At 54 reasons, we take as our starting point that children and young people are deeply curious, naturally collaborative and remarkably resilient. We recognise the expertise children have in their own lives, and their capacity and right to actively shape their own future.

For more information

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