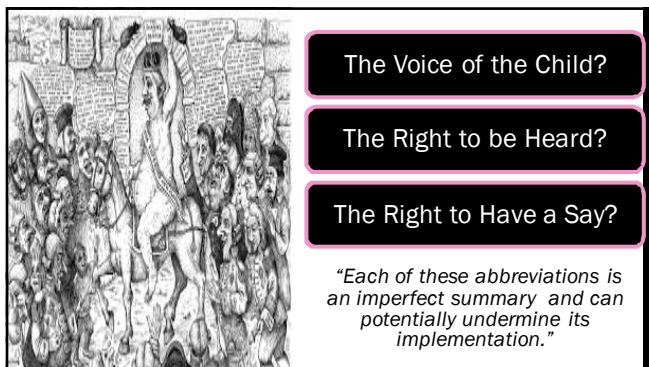
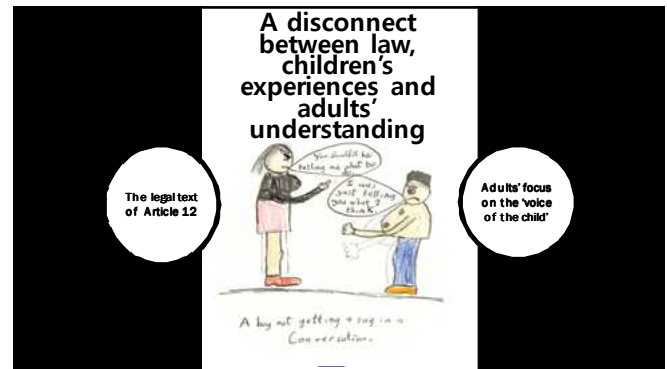


THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS AND THE RIGHT OF GROUPS OF CHILDREN



“Voice” is not enough

- **SPACE:** Children must be given the opportunity to express a view
- **VOICE:** Children must be facilitated to express their views
- **AUDIENCE:** The view must be listened to.
- **INFLUENCE:** The view must be acted upon, as appropriate.



VOICE

"the right to express a view freely"

- A right not a duty
- Choice in the mode of expression
- Afforded to all children "capable of forming a view"
- May need to be helped to both form and express their views

AUDIENCE

"the views of the child being given due weight"

- More than just the "right to be heard". Need to be actively listened to.
- May need formal channels of communication - a right of audience.

INFLUENCE

"due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child"

- Ensure there is a formal response
- Should be given feedback about the extent of influence they have had.

ITS APPEAL

- "Legally sound and user-friendly"
- Intended to capture the qualities of rights-based participation rather than different forms or levels of participation
- Concepts are fluid and flexible: can apply to any form of participation for all children in any arena of decision-making
- Children grasp the concepts readily

UNICEF

WORLD VISION

Ireland's National Children's Participation Strategy (2015-2020): A Checklist

Space	Voice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children have a safe and secure environment in which to express their views Children have access to a range of opportunities to express their views Children have access to a range of opportunities to express their views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children have a safe and secure environment in which to express their views Children have access to a range of opportunities to express their views Children have access to a range of opportunities to express their views
Audience	Influence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children have a safe and secure environment in which to express their views Children have access to a range of opportunities to express their views Children have access to a range of opportunities to express their views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children have a safe and secure environment in which to express their views Children have access to a range of opportunities to express their views Children have access to a range of opportunities to express their views

THERE IS NO ONE RIGHT WAY

SOME MYTHS

MYTHS THAT ARE BELIEVED IN
TEND TO BECOME TRUE

GEORGE ORWELL

ADULTS KNOW BEST



CHILDREN ARE *THE* EXPERTS
IN THEIR OWN LIVES



The child should not be allowed to opt out of something 'undermine life choices or impair life interests in an irreparable way.'
(Freeman, 1996)

IT UNDERMINES ADULT
AUTHORITY

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME



THAT SPOONS DONT ACTUALLY
SOUND LIKE AIRPLANES

"THEY ARE TOO
YOUNG"



"THEY ARE NOT
REPRESENTATIVE"

IT WOULD TAKE TOO MUCH
TIME/ COST TOO MUCH
MONEY

The Reality of Participation?

Good
Fast
Cheap

Choose TWO!



The post-it assembly

IT WOULD BE
TOKENISTIC...



“not an option which is in the gift of adults/policy makers but a legal obligation which is the right of the child”
Lundy, 2007

Roger Hart's Ladder of Young People's Participation



Tokenism is not
participation
– or is it?

*“It's not the gift of adults. It's
the right of the child”*

(Lundy 2007)

