

# PARTICIPATION

## WORKING TOGETHER

**INVOLVE AND ENCOURAGE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR LIFE.**

### WHAT IS PARTICIPATION?

Participation is a multi-layered concept and varies according to the child or young person, the matters being discussed and the decision being made.

It is an ongoing process of engagement and involvement.

It can be FORMAL, focused on structures and processes such as case-plan meetings, group meetings, cultural planning processes, consultations, suggestion boxes.

It can be INFORMAL, including ongoing discussions, observation, spontaneous communication and engaging in joint activities. This can create a meaningful relationship leading to stronger formal participation.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION?

- Children and young people are engaged in decisions that impact their lives
- Builds important relationships between case workers and young people
- Builds self-confidence, self-esteem and skills

### APPROACHES TO PARTICIPATION:

1. Consultation: their views are taken into account
2. Deciding together: they are involved in decision making
3. Acting together: sharing power and responsibility for decisions
4. Supported: they make their own decisions



### WHAT SOME YOUNG PEOPLE THINK ABOUT PARTICIPATION:

*"It's really important to know people are real, and people are there and people actually care. After all you've been through, you're in foster care for a reason, most of the time it's because no one cares"*

**JORDANAH, 18**

*"The biggest part is a relationship"*

**GERRY, 20**

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PARTICIPATION GO TO [WWW.CREATE.ORG.AU](http://WWW.CREATE.ORG.AU)