

The benefits of engaging children in decisions

It is important that children have agency within the service and this means giving them a voice in decisions. Not only does this support the NQS but it also has other benefits that you will see in the curriculum.



Better engagement

When children feel a part of decisions they will be more likely to engage in the curriculum as it is happening 'with' them instead of 'to' them. If children are not engaging with experiences chances are it is because they are not suited to their interests, needs and learning style.



Easier programming

Planning experiences in the program can feel like a stressful task. If you spend more time watching how children choose to play, or listening to children's ideas and suggestions the program will organically happen, and take the pressure off.



Easier assessment

The more children are engaged in the experiences and the more you observe and listen to their voices the better your assessment will be. Children will show you what they are capable of because they feel comfortable and safe within the experiences.



Better relationships

If someone is dismissive of your ideas and needs, and doesn't give you a voice it makes you feel undervalued and unsafe. The more you give children a voice and opportunities to make decisions they will feel included and this helps build positive relationships.



Reduced behaviours

Often a lot of the behaviours we see are a sign of children who do not feel a sense of belonging. By including children in choices, decisions, and giving them a voice many children feel valued and secure and as such their behaviours diminish as they are not being reactive.