

# 5 ways to respect the rights of the child

Under the UN Rights of the Child, ECA Code of Ethics, and National Quality Standard it is important that children have rights. Here are some ways to support this in practice:



## Put children's needs first

Adults can advocate for their own rights in situations as they have the skills and ability to do so, whereas children often do not. Therefore it is important to prioritise the needs of children when making decisions by advocating on their behalf.



## Ask the children what they want

Children have the right to be included in decisions and have their needs listened to, so by asking them what they want you can make sure that this is occurring within the service. Be sure to remember you have to action their requests, not just ask and then do nothing with this information.



## Observe what the children need

Not every child is confident, or able to engage in discussions so their behaviour, cues and gestures is how they communicate their needs. Notice what is challenging them and respond accordingly to support them to have a voice in service decisions too.



## Put yourself in the child's place

If you aren't sure whether the children's rights are being respected look at your service from the child's perspective. Would you feel safe, valued, heard, seen, respected, included, represented in decisions that are being made across the day? If not, how can you rectify this?



## Be consistent

Children deserve the right to have trusting and secure relationships and one of the ways to achieve this is through consistency. The more you can consistently support children through your practices the more they will also learn to speak up when they have issues.