

# What's it all about?

## Definition

Agency is when children make decisions and choices that impact their world. This also includes children realising how their decisions impact other children and how they are part of something bigger than themselves. The more knowledge children have the more they can use agency.



## What it is not

Agency is not giving children options of things you have decided they can make choices over. Nor is it allowing children full choice over their lives when they do not yet developmentally understand the consequences of this.




## Agency



## NQF

NQS -  
Element 1.2.3 - Child-directed learning  
Learning Framework -  
LO 1.2 - Children develop their emerging autonomy, interdependence, resilience and agency

## How to achieve it

-  Whenever you are making decisions in your service consider the needs of the children around this, what meals they prefer to eat, what aspects of the routine work for them, how they would like to celebrate events.
-  Provide children feedback and information to help guide their awareness of decisions and build their ability to make safe and healthy choices.
-  Recognise that children's decisions do not have to be communicated to you in their discussions, instead look out for changes in children's behaviour or identify their cues as this is also how they show they need a change in their world to help them cope.