

# Participation Principles: key messages from children and young people with a care experience.

CREATE appreciates that the people who work with and care for children and young people in out-of-home care have a genuine interest in providing quality services and care. This poster and accompanying Best Practices Guide has been informed by the voices from our 2019 Voices in Action (VIA) conference workshop combined with other research to help you and your organisation develop child-friendly practices and service improvement processes. The following seven principles offer useful pathways to creating child-friendly participation in out-of-home care:

1. Recognise that young people's participation in decision-making (both within and beyond the OOH sector) is underpinned by Child-Rights culture.
2. Engage with children and young people and allocate time to develop meaningful, respectful, and trusted relationships.
3. Use strengths-based approaches to promote agency and opportunity for young people.
4. Create culturally safe spaces and mechanisms to encourage connection and participation.
5. Keep channels of communication open and use inclusive, respectful, and child-friendly language.
6. Invest in recruiting, training, and supporting quality staff to ensure that the right people are in the job.
7. Establish a working culture driven by professional integrity—be flexible, responsive, transparent, and accountable!

Key Messages from  
Young People at the  
2019 ViA Conference

"Empower the  
young person to  
drive their own  
journey."

"Less tension  
when people  
are yarning."

"Have empathy,  
develop connections,  
and dedicate time to  
talk to young people  
without distractions."

"Hear more  
about the  
strengths and  
aspirations of  
young people."