

Parallel sessions (1)

12.05-12.50 .



Anna Westall, Children in Wales

Katie Spendiff, Welsh Government

Parallel session 1b: 12:05-12:50 in the Macphail Room

This session will provide an overview of the work

Wales is doing to support babies and

young children's Rights and voice.

What Wales is doing to support babies and young children's Rights and voice?



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



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A formal commitment to the UNCRC in Wales

- The Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 .
- The measure places a duty on Welsh Ministers to pay due regard to the UNCRC when making decisions that affect children
- The Children's Rights Scheme shows how the Welsh Government gives due regard to the UNCRC





Dawn Bowden MS Minister for Children and Social Care



**Comisiynydd
Plant Cymru**
Children's
Commissioner
for **Wales**



The role of partners – funded and sponsored bodies, and advisory groups



Children's Rights Branch



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What are Children's Rights?

Have you heard of the United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child (UNCRC)?

It is a list of rights that all children aged 0-18 years have.

Rights make sure we're all treated fairly; can reach our full potential and can communicate our voice. Children have additional rights to adults, because they need extra protection and are highly dependent on the adults around them. To ensure children's rights, these adults should think about what's best for babies and young children in their day to day lives, to make sure they can enjoy their rights and be healthy, happy and safe.

Ultimately it is about what all children need to grow up **Happy, Healthy and Safe**.

The UNCRC isn't an additional ask or something to give you more to do. Nor does it mean children can do whatever they want whenever they want! It provides you with the understanding and support to ensure children have the best start in life.

Supporting my Rights - Here I am! (0-12 months)



A Principled Approach to Children's Rights for Policymakers

Embedding children's rights – putting children's rights at the core of planning and delivery;

- We want a Wales for all Children, where every child has the best start in life and opportunities to be healthy, happy safe and thrive.
- ECPLC
- Networks and structures – Early Years Action Group & Children's Rights in Early Years Network

Equality and non-discrimination – ensuring that every child has an equal opportunity to be the best they can be and is not discriminated against;

- Recognising babies, infants and toddlers as rights bearers – as agentic but dependent. Commissioning services/activity to respond to this.

Accountability – authorities should be accountable to children and young people for decisions and actions that affect their lives.

- Reporting and monitoring compliance on this – in our Children's Rights Compliance report, and through our CYP plan



A Principled Approach to Children's Rights for Policymakers

- Empowering children – enhancing children and young peoples' capabilities as individuals so they're better able to take advantage of rights;
 - Raising awareness of what respecting, protecting and fulfilling their rights means in Early Years
- Participation – listening to children and young people and taking their views meaningfully into account;
 - Creating resources that encourage people to listen and respond to the voice/expression/needs of their babies, infants and toddlers.
 - Parents Connect



Children in Wales

“Building a Wales where all children and young people have all their rights fulfilled”



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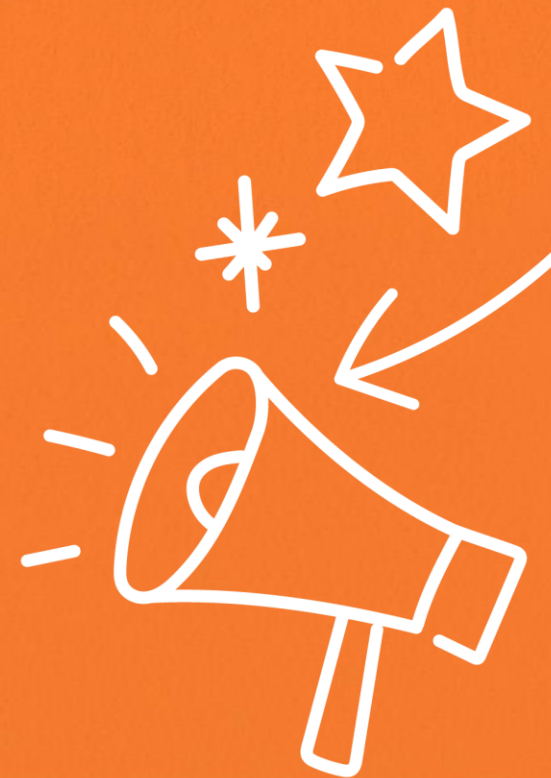
EVIDENCE:

Whilst participation is well embedded within legislation and education policy, in practice there are more meaningful opportunities available for children age 7+, as methods are often based around verbal communication, limiting engagement by babies and younger children and in some instances, children with additional needs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Ensure there are equitable opportunities for younger children, and those most marginalised and vulnerable to participate at a local and national level.

Listening to babies and young children



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My little Giraffe

REDBALL
2013 NATIONALS

AND WATCH
ME GROW

Dimensi

Listening to the Voice of the Baby

Using creative methods to support an understanding of baby's voice and enhance parent-infant relationships



Key Findings

The key messages alongside the creative movement sessions clearly improved both parents' knowledge, awareness, and confidence of baby's voice.

A **natural power shift** from parent led to baby led, allowed an understanding of how to both recognise and be responsive to baby's voice.

'I need everyone to think about what things are like for me and how I would feel before you make any decisions.'



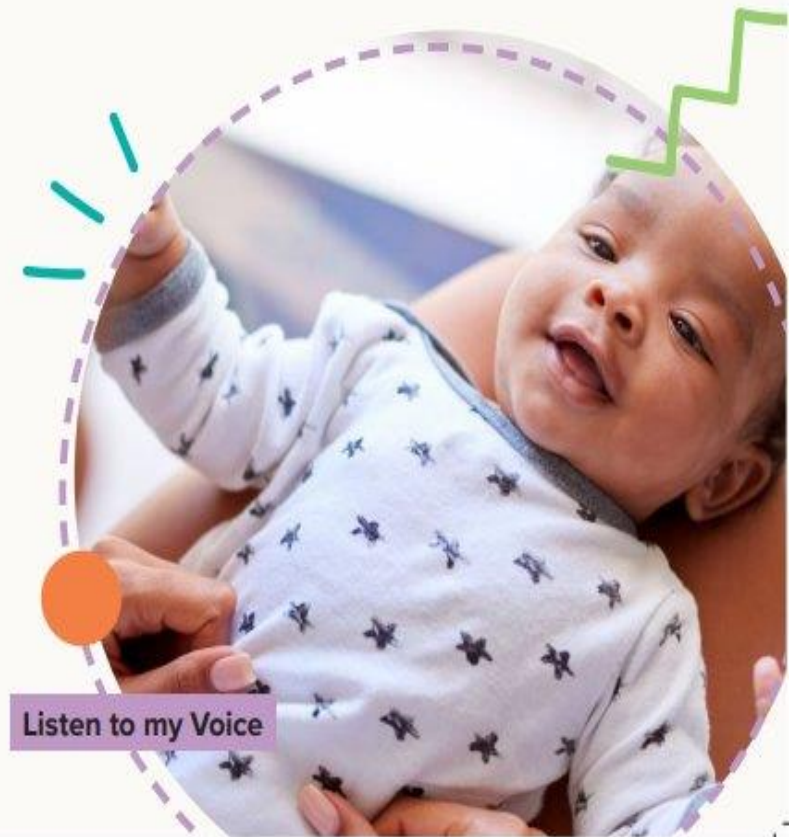
Listen to my Voice

'I'm ready to communicate with you and want to find out about this big wide world, it is all so new to me.'



Listen to my Voice

'I need opportunities to express myself as I explore, play and have the chance to make choices.'



Listen to my Voice

PAIGE
Parent



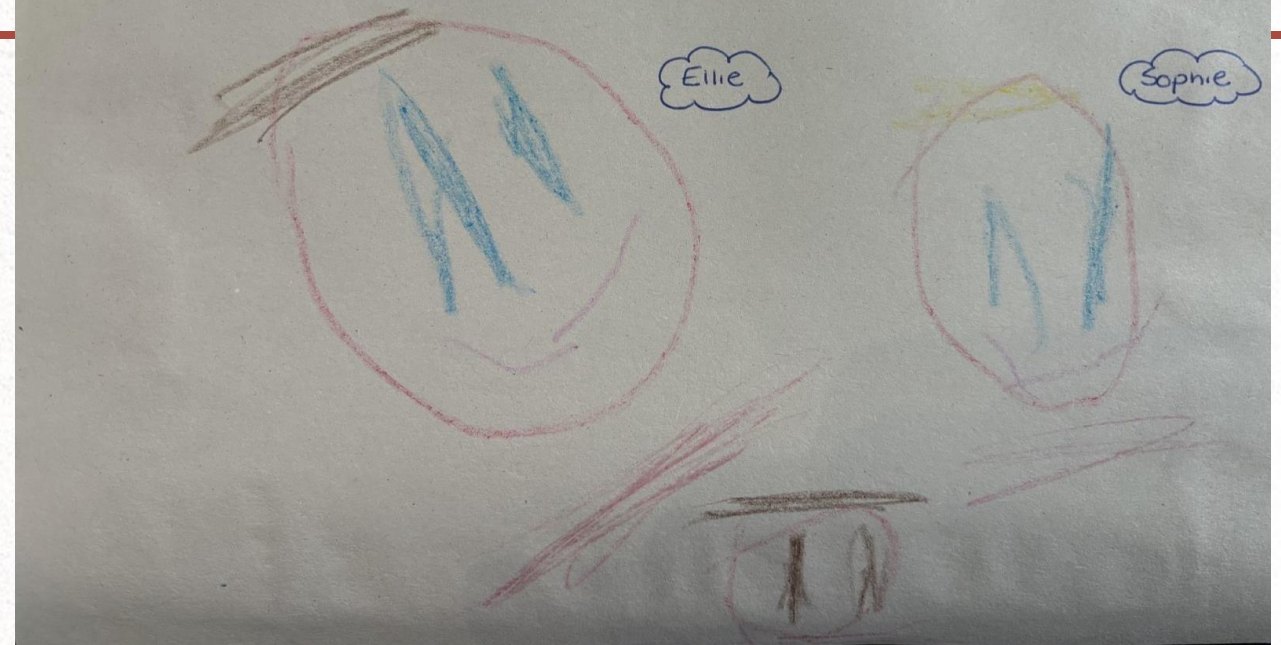
When do I feel loved?
What makes me feel loved?

spoken to gently when i have a full belly
gentle voices soft familiar voices
being in parent arms when i am close to mum smiles when im happy
understanding what i need
face to face smiles and cuddles being held close
knowing someone is there pleasure from parent
responding to me a full belly cuddles when i am clean and fed
hugs singing songs being held routine
warmth kisses being talked to considered
cuddles and kisses when im warm cuddles when im sad smiles stories
sensitive care soft voices sung to
when everything is calm when you respond to me
responding to my cues affectionate voice touch
smiling faces when im in my mothers arm
adult imitating my sounds sleeping on daddy's chest





"Ellie and Sophie look after me"
Hanne aged 3



"I like holding Ellie's hand, when I had her hand she comes to play with the cars and garage"



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Welsh Government 20mph Consultation

- Young children can participate
- Adapt approach
- Simplify and make it relevant
- Use play based activities and role play





Parents Connect Wales

Parents Voices



Understanding Children's Rights

How can Parents support Children's Rights

What can parents do to support their child's rights?

As a parent you are the strongest supporter of your child's rights. You know your child best and what they need.

We asked parents what they thought they could do to ensure their children get their rights:

know their rights **protect**
provide loving home **advocate their voice**
support them listen healthy lifestyle
be honest about struggles **speak up**
provide a safe space **ensuring have right medical care**
e.g. doctor/dentist
encourage



For Every Family

"He is in this world to make a difference"

Photos are submitted to gather a visual understanding or insight on a specific topic.

- Simple and easy for parents who can use their phones to take photos.
- Captures unique, in-depth insights



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Any questions?



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What could you learn from Wales?

What could Wales learn from you?



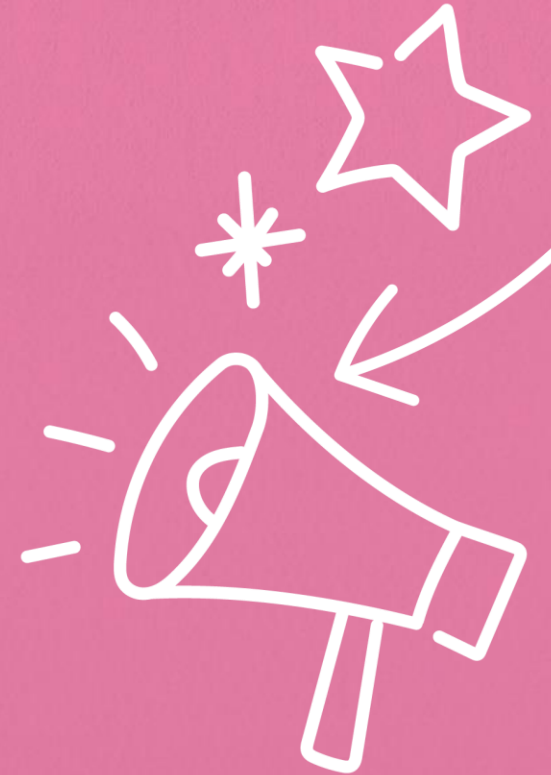
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Thank you for Listening

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