

Foundation module 4

Participation and inclusion

Section 3 Children's participation practice standards

Handout 1



Introducing practice standards in children's participation

The practice standards in summary

Standard 1 An ethical approach: transparency, honesty and accountability

Adult organisations and workers are committed to ethical participatory practice and to the primacy of children's best interests.

Standard 2 Children's participation is relevant and voluntary

Children participate in processes and address issues that affect them, either directly or indirectly, and have the choice as to whether to participate or not.

Standard 3 A child-friendly, enabling environment

Children experience a safe, welcoming and encouraging environment for their participation.

Standard 4 Equality of opportunity

Child participation work challenges and does not reinforce existing patterns of discrimination and exclusion. It encourages those groups of children who typically suffer discrimination and who are often excluded from activities to be involved in participatory processes.

Standard 5 Staff are effective and confident

Adult staff and managers involved in supporting and facilitating children's participation are trained and supported to do their jobs to a high standard.

Standard 6 Participation promotes the safety and protection of children

Child protection policies and procedures form an essential part of participatory work with children.

Standard 7 Ensuring follow-up and evaluation

Respect for children's involvement is indicated by a commitment to provide feedback and/or follow-up and to evaluate the quality and impact of children's participation.

These are available in full in Practice standards in children's participation Save the Children Alliance, 2005 www.savethechildren.net

