

Child Advisory

A KIDS GUIDE



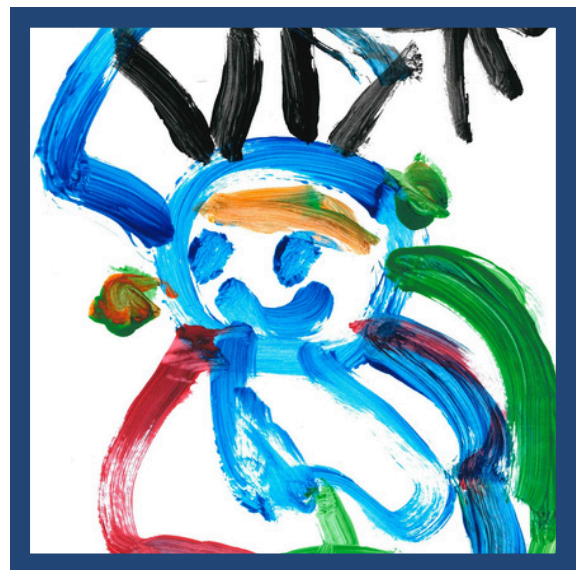
Valuing Children
— INITIATIVE —

Helping adults
think like kids

A GUIDE FOR CHILDREN AS ADVISERS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

At the Valuing Children Initiative, we acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of this country and its waters, particularly the Whadjuk Noongar people who's boodja (country) we are founded on. We wish to pay respect to the Elders past, present and emerging, particularly our children and young people and future decision makers. The Valuing Children Initiative wishes to acknowledge the rights of all koolankas (children in Noongar) and we wholeheartedly endorse the United Nations Conventions of the Rights of the Child.



**We want to say to all children
everywhere,
you matter, and you are
valued.**



The Valuing Children Initiative works to inspire all Australians to value children and young people by promoting the deep understanding that a child's wellbeing is a shared responsibility of the entire community and ensure children and young people are at the forefront of our decision making.

We invite children to work on our valuing children projects, so we continue to listen to and act on the ideas and input of children. Children helped create this very guide, to make it easier for kids to understand and get involved in child advisory work.

What is child advisory?

"Your experience of the world- your ideas. You are tellers.

It's really important as it's how we all learn. Making change. Children sharing their ideas.

Paying attention to the world around you. Being strong and helping others. Creative ideas. The right to play games and communicate. Right to eat. To have a choice and voice in keeping safe. Be able to see and tell people things. Tell people what they're doing wrong. Be able to vote and to be heard and choose. To get heard by an adult. To do and make more ideas. To get more ideas and things that children enjoy."

Bold Park Primary School children

WHAT IS CHILD ADVISORY WORK?

It is telling and asking: Child advisory means when children and young people are invited by adults to take part in projects and give their ideas. Sharing your ideas and helping to make a difference is part of advisory work.

It is safety: Children and young people are invited to work with adults who are experienced in working alongside you. They should be child-safe checked and should have fun ways to ask you questions and help make it interesting to you. This can help you feel safe to take part.

It is your ideas: Child advisory work may involve making designs, writing your ideas down, creating your ideas with clay or craft objects. It can involve questionnaires, where you might answer questions or work as a group to discuss your ideas, with the adults recording them for you.

It is connecting: Usually child advisory is in groups of children and young people working together. Children and young people and their parents or guardians should always be informed of the project goals. They should then have the information to be able to 'consent' or give permission for you to take part. This means to understand and agree on what you are helping with.



YOU ARE IMPORTANT

Your ideas are important and could help adults understand the world better. Your ideas could contribute to companies and organisations or how to design your street, suburb, city or the world!

Being part of an advisory group can make you feel strong, as you are helping others, using creative ideas. You can also ask questions and create discussions on key topics to make a change. Children have the Right to be involved in decision making, on topics that affect you. Being able to tell adults what you think is good, works well or needs to improve allows kids to have a voice on bigger issues. Being heard by adults on different issues is important and we need to do more in giving you and all children a voice. All children should be valued and being part of a child advisory, you are likely to represent lots of other children by sharing your ideas. This could help into the future.

QUESTIONS FROM THE KIDS

What is advisory work? Its telling and asking work. Advisory means telling people what you think about a topic. Advisory groups are interested in your view of the world and what it means to you. As children are members of communities and society, it is very important to have the voice and ideas of children included in decision making.

How can children share their ideas? There are different ways that children can share their ideas. One method is a survey questionnaires that you can complete on your computer, phone or IPad. Others are in person with a group of other children or design you can sign up to attend a group from your laptop. There are different organisations that welcome children to advisory groups from health, education, sport and design.

How long do advisory sessions last? Advisory workshops can last between 20 minutes to 2 hours depending on the project. The organisers will make it clear how long you will need to take part.

Where does my personal information go? When you sign to agree (consent) to take part in the project, you can decide if your name and/or age is shared or if you would like to be anonymous (your name not written next to your ideas). Your consent form will be kept in our locked and private records for 2 years.

What happens to my ideas? Your ideas will be recorded by the adults supporting your work. This may be written down, video recorded, audio (sound) recorded or even through drawings, music or designs. Ideas will be kept true to how you have said or created them, as your voice is what is most important in advisory work. Your ideas will be used to tell adults about a particular topic. Your ideas should then come together to help create the next step of positive action, which may be a new design, a guide, a letter to our Premier or a document to share what children think to educate more adults about a topic.

What if I change my mind on taking part? You can always change your mind on taking part. If you have any questions or decide to not take part anymore, the supporting adults should provide their email address and / or phone number so you can tell them to stop using your ideas. It is your right to take part or not and adults should support your final decision.

Who wants to know my ideas? Check out the list of organisations looking for child advisers at the end of this guide. We hope many more organisations will add to this list too. If you have an idea for an organisation to create a child advisory group - use this guide (and the adults version) to email them your idea with this guide to help them get started.

QUESTIONS FROM THE KIDS

Why is voice so important? Every child has the right to express their opinions freely, and have their opinions taken into account in matters that affect them. This is taken from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Have a look at all of your Rights in the poster at the end of this guide. You are an expert in your own life and how you experience it. Therefore, it is important to share your ideas about your world with adults, so they can also include the perspective of children when decisions are made. Having a voice on projects is important as it includes children and can make you feel included and that you have important things to share.

How does it help? Sharing your ideas and telling adults about what you think can help to improve things. When adults can take your ideas and put them into action through reports, letters or projects, your ideas can help other children and communities with progress. Sharing your ideas and voice is also good to educate others how easy it is to share ideas and put them into action projects, making a real difference. The more you share your ideas, the more skills you develop in working together, speaking in a group, learning about bigger projects, understanding how to make positive change.

**WHEN CHILDREN ARE SEEN AND HEARD
THE WORLD IS A BETTER PLACE.**



CHILD ADVISORY HOW TO HELP?



Raise the idea: Speak to the adults in your life and ask if they know about any child advisory groups or projects that you can get involved in.



Search for opportunities: With an adult, take a look on local websites, community pages, library notice boards for how children can get involved with sharing ideas. Take a look at our child advisory list at the end of this guide for groups inviting children to share ideas.



Suggest a group: If your local area doesn't have a children's advisory group, email them to let them know you are interested in being part of a child advisory group to help the local organisations. Use our guides to help you share your idea.



Get involved: Join a group where you have a voice and can make a real difference on different topics.



Throughout the year organisations will open up invitations for children and young people to take part in child advisory groups. Take a look at some options below or email them to see when they are next opening their invite lists.

Some groups are for primary aged children and others for high school plus ages. You can also email a group to suggest they widen their age group to include your age!



CHILD ADVISORY: OPPORTUNITIES IN WA

Aboriginal Health Council, WA: [Youth Program – AHCWA](#)

Australian Government Office for Youth: [Youth Advisory Groups - Office for Youth, Australian Government](#)

Anglicare Aboriginal Advisory Group: [Aboriginal Advisory Group | Anglicare WA](#)

Child Adolescent Health Service: [Child and Adolescent Health Service | CAHS - Youth Advisory Council](#)

City of Bayswater: [Youth Advisory Council - City of Bayswater](#)

City of Cockburn: [Be a Youth Leader for Cockburn Youth Advisory Collective - City of Cockburn](#)

City of Fremantle: [Fremantle Youth Network | City of Fremantle](#)

City of Karratha: [Youth services | City of Karratha](#)

Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People: [Youth Advisory Group - Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People \(cacyp.com.au\)](#)

CREATE Foundation: [State Teams - CREATE Foundation](#)

Mandurah advisory group: [Youth advisory group | City of Mandurah](#)

Millennium Kids: [Join Millennium Kids – Millennium Kids](#)

Ministerial Youth Advisory Council: [Ministerial Youth Advisory Council \(www.wa.gov.au\)](#)

Netball WA: [Netball WA Youth Advisory Group - Netball WA](#)

Sport West: [Voices of Children and Young People Advisory Group | True Sport \(sportwest.com.au\)](#)

Shire of Augusta and Margaret River: [Youth Advisory Council \(YAC\) | Shire of Augusta Margaret River \(amrshire.wa.gov.au\)](#)

Shire of Dardanup: [Youth Advisory Group » Shire of Dardanup](#)

Shire of Manjimup: [Youth Advisory Group - Shire of Manjimup](#)

Shire of Mundaring: [Youth Advisory Group \(Youth C.R.E.W.\) » Shire of Mundaring](#)

Shire of Plantagenet: [Youth » Shire of Plantagenet](#)

Town of Port Hedland: [Youth Advisory Council » Town of Port Hedland](#)

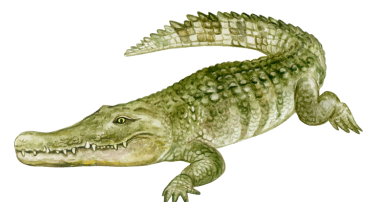
Valuing Children Initiative:

Youth Advisory Council of WA (YACWA): [YACWA Youth Homelessness Advisory Council - YACWA](#)

Do you have an opportunity for children's advisory? Email the Valuing Children Initiative to feature in this guide as an option for children:

info@valuingchildreninitiative.com.au

KIDS- if you have any questions about child advisory email us at: info@valuingchildreninitiative.com.au for more information. We would love to hear from you :)



CHILD ADVISORY:WHAT DO THE BIG WORDS MEAN - GLOSSARY

Advisory: The power to make a recommendation, to share an idea you have, to tell an adult something about your world. To have a voice, the right to share your view as an adviser.

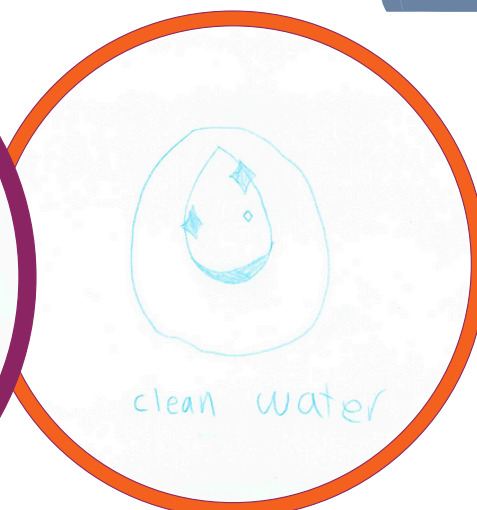
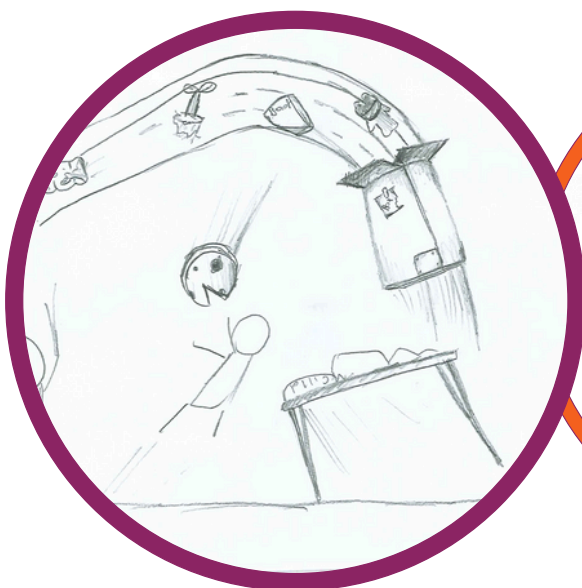
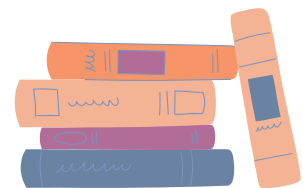
Informed Consent: Your decision to agree to take part in something, once you have all the information and your questions answered. You will usually sign a consent form to confirm you agree, which will include the project title, and any media, photography, video participation.

Rights: The United Nations Convention of the Child shows all of a child's rights; to grow, learn and be safe. Print the poster in this guide so you can see all your Rights.

Guardians: A person who is responsible for the care of someone and keeps their best interests a priority. Can be a parent, a family member or carer and is always an adult.

Child-safe checked: Is when adults working with children have completed an important safety checks to work alongside children. The formal check is a Working with Children Card and Police Clearance. This is set up to keep children safe. You can ask any adult if they have these check to work with you.

Anonymous: Is your right to take part but not have your name written next to any of your ideas.



YOUR RIGHTS POSTER

A SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD.

1 Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights in this Convention.

2 The Convention applies to everyone whether they are boys or girls, whatever their race, colour, religion, or language.

3 All governments concerned with children should work together to make sure these rights are met.

4 Governments should make these rights available to children.

5 Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to care for and raise their children properly.

6 Children have the right to live a full life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthy.

7 Children have the right to a legally registered name and nationality. Children also have the right to know their parents and, where possible, to be cared for by them.

8 Governments should respect a child's right to a name, a nationality and family life.

9 Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is in their best interests. If a child is separated from their parents, the government should ensure that the child is cared for by family members, unless this harms the child.

10 Families who live in different countries should be allowed to move between those countries, and the parents and children can stay in contact, or get back together as a family.

11 Governments should take steps to stop children being taken out of their own countries illegally.

12 Children have the right to say what they think about matters which affect them and to have their opinions taken into account.

13 Children have the right to get and to share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or others.

14 Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practice their religion, as long as it does not harm other children or harm society.

15 Children have the right to meet with other children and to join clubs, groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from exercising their rights.

16 Children have the right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their family and their home.

17 Children have the right to reliable information from the media. Mass media must not harm children. Mass media should not provide information that is harmful to children.

18 Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children and should discuss together what is best for each child. Governments should help parents by providing services, such as day care, health care, and financial support.

19 Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.

20 Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be looked after properly by people who respect their religion, culture and language.

21 When children are adopted in this country, that must be what is best for them. The same rules should apply whether children are adopted in the country of their birth or if they are taken to live in another country.

22 Children who come into a country as refugees should have the same rights as children who are born in that country.

23 Children who live in areas of disaster or who are victims of violence should have special protection and help.

24 Children have the right to good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy and achieve their full potential.

25 Children who are looked after by their local authority, rather than their parents, should have the same rights as other children.

26 The Government should provide safe homes for the children of families in need.

27 Children have the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The government should help poor families who cannot afford to provide this.

28 Children have the right to an education. Quality education should respect children's rights. Teachers should help them to learn and to develop their abilities.

29 Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, their culture and other values.

30 Children have the right to learn and use the language and culture of their families, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live, as long as this does not harm others.

31 Children have the right to relax and play and to join in a wide range of leisure activities.

32 Governments should protect children from their health or education.

33 Governments should take steps of protecting children from dangerous drugs.

34 Governments should protect children from sexual abuse.

35 Governments should make sure that children are not abused or sold.

36 Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.

37 Children who are in conflict with the law should be treated fairly. They should not be put in a prison with adults and should be able to keep in contact with their family.

38 Governments should not allow children under 18 to join the army. Children in war zones should receive special help to restore their self-respect.

39 Children who have been exploited or abused should receive special help to restore their self-respect.

40 Children who are accused of breaking the law should be treated fairly. They should not be put in a prison with adults.

41 If the law of a particular country protects children, then that law should be used to protect them.

42 The Convention on the Rights of the Child has 54 articles in all. Articles 42-54 are about how states and governments should work together to make sure that all children get all their rights. Go to www.unicef.org/irc to read all the articles.

unicef

A world organisation called UNICEF created all these Rights of children. All children should have the above Rights.

Print the poster so you can learn more about your Rights:

<https://www.unicef.org.au/united-nations-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child>

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CARD



More information on working with children checks can be found here:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-communities/working-children-check>

A working with children check card looks like this. You can ask adults working with you to see their card



CONSENT FORM EXAMPLE

example

example

For you and your parent or guardian to agree to be part of the project. Once you understand your involvement you can sign the consent form to say that you are happy to take part.

PARTICIPATION TEMPLATES

Timeline, agenda, emotion indicator

My Ideas are.....

More dancing.
More colours and things to play.
I want to feel heard
More trees
More relaxing time

My Name is _____
And I am _____ **years old.**

I love looking at the world



1. Play a game to meet each other
2. Snack Time
3. Drawing, writing or group feedback session.
Finish!

Right now, I am feeling

Include faces of happy, sad, worried or refer to Zones of Regulation research with blue, green, yellow, red zones of reference.



We look forward to seeing you sharing your ideas with the world



www.valuingchildreninitiative.com.au



Thank you to the following organisations for their contributions to this guide

