

Guide to involving children in CRIA and CRIE

Activity 6: Participation cakes

Aim: to explore with children what good participation feels like – what are the ingredients, what qualities do people need to bring?

Resources: quick drying, colourful clay, drawing paper, coloured pens or pencils.

This is an activity for small groups.

Instructions:

- Introduce the topic of children's right to express their views and be listened to by adults.
- Ask the children to make little cakes from the clay and while they do so to think about all the ingredients that would make a great 'participation cake'.
- What are all the layers of the cake?

- As they do this, or once they have finished, chat informally about the ideas for participation. There will be a collection of ideas from different groups.
- See if you can agree some main ingredients for your final participation cake.

'A participation cake is full of all the things (the ingredients!) needed to make children's participation work really well, so children are listened to and taken seriously by adults.'

'On a blank piece of paper and using lots of coloured pencils or pens, we'd like you to design your own recipe for adults who want to listen to and involve children when they are making decisions.'

