

Child-friendly information for CRIA and CRIE processes

In this section you will find information to help explain the CRIA and CRIE process to children.

If you expect to involve children regularly in CRIA and CRIE, why not ask them to help create child-friendly versions of key information for your organisation? (See advice in section three.)

The descriptions of CRIA and CRIE could be divided onto cards, used as slides, or illustrated with symbols, drawings or quotes from children. You could film children or adults explaining the concepts.

You may decide to focus children's attention on the subject of the CRIA or CRIE without going into too much detail about the overall process. But it is important they know and understand how what they are doing fits in.

It is recommended that you work with children to adapt the information in this section.

Child-friendly information about CRIA¹

Here we give answers to questions children often ask about child rights impact assessment. The questions and answers can be used to introduce and explain what the CRIA process is to children.

Q: What is a child rights impact assessment?

A: Children and young people have different needs and rights from adults. Adults in power often take decisions that affect people – such as laws and policies. When they do this, they don't always think about the impact these decisions will have on children and young people.

A child rights impact assessment or CRIA can be used to find out if a new law or policy might change children's lives. It looks at the ways the new law or policy might have a positive (good) or negative (bad) impact on the rights of children and young people.

The CRIA can then help adults in power make changes to the law or policy so that it does not have any negative impacts on the rights of children and young people.

¹ ENOC (2020) Common framework of reference on child rights impact assessment. A guide on how to carry out CRIA, Strasbourg, France: ENOC, pages 32–33. URL: <http://enoc.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/ENOC-Common-Framework-of-Reference-FV.pdf>

Q: Why is a child rights impact assessment important?

A: In all decisions affecting children and young people, they have a right to give their views, and for those views to be listened to and given proper consideration, as provided for in article 12 of the UNCRC.

But children and young people are often excluded from making decisions and must depend on adults speaking up for them. A CRIA is an important way to include children and young people's views in a decision. Their views and ideas can help to make decisions better.

Q: What are the different stages of a child rights impact assessment?

A: To make it easier to do a CRIA, there are several stages that can be followed. Each stage has a list of questions.

The first stage is called screening. This is when you must decide if the new law or policy is going to affect children's rights, and what the impact might look like. If the answer is 'yes, it will affect children's rights', then you move on to the next stage.

The second stage is scoping. This is when you think about which children's rights are likely to be affected. The third stage is gathering evidence. This helps you to know and understand how children's rights could be affected. You might need to gather different types of evidence. It could be numbers of children or young people affected, or it could be the views and opinions of children and young people on the new law or policy.

The fourth stage is assessing impact. Once you have all the evidence, you need to study it and decide what you think the impact will be on children and young people's rights. You need to decide if there will be different impacts on different groups of children and young people. If you think there will be a negative impact, you can suggest different ways to stop this from happening.

The fifth stage is when you write down your conclusions about what you think the final impact of the law or policy will be on children and young people's rights. If you think it will have a negative impact, it helps if you can list the main things that need to change to stop this from happening.

Q: How are children and young people involved in a child rights impact assessment?

A: There are two main ways that children and young people are involved in a CRIA. The first way is by finding out their views and opinions from previous consultations and surveys. This is okay, but it can mean their views and opinions on the actual law or policy that is being looked at will not be known.

It is much better if children and young people can be directly involved in a CRIA. This means that they will be asked what they think about the new law or policy, and for their ideas on how to make it better.