

Guide to involving children in CRIA and CRIE

Planning children's involvement - things to think about

Who

Who do you need to involve?

Which children are likely to be affected or to have a view?

Is the subject of the CRIA or CRIE likely to affect all children or specific children or groups of children?

Are there children or groups of children for whom you need to take additional steps to ensure their involvement?

Who can help you connect with the children if you aren't in direct contact? (e.g., local youth groups, schools, third sector organisations, support staff.)

Why

Why do you need to involve them?

What is it you need to find out about or explore with them?

Are there gaps in knowledge they can help to fill?

Do you need their help in coming up with ideas and solutions?

What

What is the goal for involving children?

At what stage or stages will you seek their involvement?

What's in it for them?

What resources will you need?

What is the timeframe?

What do you need to plan, design and facilitate the children's participation? Who can help you with this?

How

How will you go about involving children?

How does children's involvement fit meaningfully into the plan for conducting the CRIA or CRIE?

What range of participation opportunities might be suitable? ([Remember the model of consultative, collaborative and child-led](#)).

How will you communicate effectively with all children you would like to involve?

How will the children's ideas and views be recorded?

How will you share children's ideas and views to influence and create change?

How will you obtain appropriate consent?

How will you feed back to the children involved?

When

When are the most suitable times for the children?

If they use additional support, when is that available?

Has your planning considered school holidays?

Have you made sure children's involvement is early enough in the process to genuinely influence decisions?

Will the same children still be available at all stages? (For example, will it make a difference if children move from primary school to high school during the planned activities?)

Have you allowed plenty of time?

Reflections

Do you feel you have the skills and capacity to involve children?

Do you need any support or training?

Do you need to arrange any resources?

Where might these come from?

Do all your plans reflect the principles in the [7 Golden Rules of Participation](#)?

Is your team on board?

Where

Where will the children participate?

If you'll meet, will you meet online or in person?

If you'll meet in person, will you meet in their spaces, communities, schools, home environments?

How will you ensure the places you meet are safe and comfortable?

How will you ensure the places you meet are inclusive and accessible?

How will the children get there and get home again?