

Guide to involving children in CRIA and CRIE

Tips for creating child friendly information

There is a lot to communicate in CRIE and CRIA processes including initial information, consent and permission, documentation of activities and final assessments. These don't all have to be written – information can be conveyed visually, with symbols or with recorded messages. The following tips suggest some 'dos and don'ts' for child-friendly information.

The language used should be age appropriate and accurate, and the design should be accessible to all children and appealing for them to engage with.

Age appropriate

Do:

- Use simple, clear language and short sentences.
- Explain difficult words.
- Give examples.

Do not:

- Make it too long. Aim for 1–4 pages maximum.
- Make it too simple. Don't patronise them.

Accurate

Do:

Keep to the original meaning.

- Check back with the authors to be sure.
- Use examples to clarify the meaning.

Do not:

- Overgeneralise if it means that it might be misinterpreted.
- Include children's suggestions if the result will make the text inaccurate.

Accessible

Do:

- Use a font of at least 12 pt.
- Include alternative texts for all images/ icons.

Do not:

- Centre or justify the text.
- Use italics or capitalise whole words.
- Have complicated or irrelevant images.

Appealing

Do:

- Use colour.
- Include appropriate images.

Do not:

- Have long documents of black and white text.
- Use images that are for decoration only or are too childish.

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