Resources to support the involvement of children and young people and parents/carers in decision making

Engagement resources

Book creator

Book Creator

Book Creator is a tool for creating and publishing a book to tell a story.

With 50 fonts to choose from, add images or photos, drop in video, music or even record your voice. Get even more creative by using the pen tool to draw, use shapes, icons, arrows and emojis to help express your ideas. Choose between portrait, square or landscape book layouts.

Book Creator could be used by people who want to tell their story to share information about themselves. The book could be shared in an annual review or when moving to a new class, school or college.

There is a free package for individuals.

ChatterPix Kids

ChatterPix Kids

ChatterPix Kids is an App that can make anything talk. Simply take a photo of pets, books, doodles and more, draw a line to make a mouth, and record your voice.

Use as a fun icebreaker activity to help a child relax.

Free to download on the App Store for iPhone or iPad.

Google Jamboard

Google Jamboard: Collaborative digital whiteboard | Google Workspace for Education | Google for Education

Jamboard is a digital whiteboard for sharing ideas from a phone, tablet or computer.

Add write, erase, sticky notes, images, webpages, sketches, circles and text to create your virtual whiteboard.

Up to 25 people can work on a 'jam' at once.

Mentimeter

Interactive presentation software - Mentimeter

Create polls, quizzes, word clouds, questions and answers that can be used live in presentations or meetings.

Ask questions and get quick answers from your group using smart devices. Display responses in real-time for an interactive experience.

Create your own quiz or use one of the quiz templates to engage and energise your meeting or activity.

Free limited trial available.

Microsoft (MS) Forms

Microsoft Forms – create shareable surveys, quizzes and polls in minutes.

Tracks users' responses, giving real-time results and information. The information can be exported to Microsoft Excel.

Free for anyone with a Microsoft account.

Mind Of My Own

Find out more about Mind Of My Own

Mind Of My Own products help people aged 4-25, to share their views, wishes and feelings.

One App – contains prompts and questions designed to make conversations easier. Use it with a young person, or the young person can open their own account and use it alone.

- Great to share good news, sort a problem, or prepare for a meeting
- Allows you to track a person's progress over time
- Use in over 100 languages and/or the text-to-speech option

Express App – for people with SEND and younger people. Share views, wishes and feelings in a fun way that's easy for workers to understand and evidence.

- Use pictures, less words and sounds
- Choose features that will help people join in

Shout – a safe and secure survey package. Choose from a large bank of questions on a range of topics to create up to three surveys each year. Get help to understand and act upon feedback on services.

Miro

Online Whiteboard | Collaborative Free Online Whiteboard | Miro

Miro is a fast, free and simple to use online whiteboard to support the sharing of ideas - anytime, anywhere.

Pick a template, share and then start adding images, files and digital sticky notes.

Padlet

Padlet

Padlet is a digital whiteboard useful for sharing ideas virtually.

A range of backgrounds and formats for displaying content can be chosen. Once created, a Padlet can be shared with one or more people.

Involve the people in creating their Padlet for use in a virtual annual review meeting. A visual tool that allows everyone to share their ideas about what they like and admire about the person, what is going well, what isn't working and what needs to change.

Poll Me Everywhere

Host interactive online meetings | Poll Everywhere

Host interactive remote meetings, anywhere.

Get feedback in real time with a variety of activities, add polls to your presentation slides in just a few clicks.

Skribbl.io

Skribbl Io | Scribbles Io (scribble-io.online)

A fun online drawing and guessing website which could be used as an icebreaker.

Slido

Slido - Audience Interaction Made Easy

Slido is an easy-to-use question, answer and polling App that allows people to give their ideas anonymously, making it easier to speak up, ask questions and give their views.

Can be used with Cisco Webex, PowerPoint, Microsoft Teams, Google Slides and YouTube.

The basic plan is free.

Times Educational Supplement (TES) Whole-school special educational needs resources

[Special Educational Needs Resources: SEN Materials and Activities | Tes](#)

Find ready made resources to support the gathering of views. Use the search bar to find useful resources.

Some resources are free, others have a small charge.

Typeform

[Typeform: People-Friendly Forms and Surveys](#)

Create forms and surveys. Pick a template or create your own. Use the built-in photo and video libraries to bring questions to life.

Share on your website, in an email or simply share the link. Information can be sent to be used with other packages eg Excel.

Wordwall

[Wordwall | Create better lessons quicker](#)

Create your own fun activities such as quizzes, match ups and word games. A useful icebreaker.

Factsheets, toolkits and guidance

Barriers to participation

KIDS Factsheet #4: Barriers to Participation

Identifies common barriers to participation and gives solutions for each.

Creative evaluation toolkit

Creative-Evaluation-Toolkit.pdf (artworkscreative.org.uk)

This toolkit gives a selection of creative methods that can be used to help people understand and share their feelings and views.

A useful key helps the user select the right activity to use.

Step by step guidance plus any resources and materials needed are included to help users have a go.

Developing a supportive environment

KIDS Factsheet #6: Developing a supportive environment

Practical advice on how to talk to people about changing the environment to meet their support needs.

FLARE's top tips for communicating online with children and young people

FLARE's Top Tips

12 tips for success when communicating with people in virtual meetings.

Ingredients of high-quality participation

Ingredients of High Quality Participation | Council For Disabled Children

A checklist for how to include people in decision making, developed in partnership with young disabled people. The checklist gives 10 important things that they believe support high-quality participation with young disabled people.

Involving children and young people in formal meetings

[KIDS Factsheet #5: Involving children and young people in formal meetings](#)

Gives advice on creating a positive environment for people with SEND in formal meetings. It also suggests ideas to engage them before, during and after a meeting.

Methods and levels of participation

[KIDS Factsheet #1: Methods and Levels of Participation](#)

Defines different methods of engagement and examples of how people can be involved at an individual level, an operational/service level and strategic level.

Monitoring and evaluating participation

[KIDS Factsheet #7: Monitoring and Evaluating Participation](#)

Explains the importance of monitoring and evaluation and how it leads to learning and change.

Participation strategy resources and exemplar

[Participation Strategy Exemplar | Council For Disabled Children](#)

Resources developed by the Council of Disabled Children in coproduction with children and young people. They identify good practice and what a good participation strategy should include.

Real support for real futures

[Real Support for Real Futures: Engaging with children and young people to create the 'new normal' | Council For Disabled Children](#)

A new resource coproduced by the Council for Disabled Children and the FLARE group of young SEND advisors to the Department for Education. It covers communication, support, mental health and wellbeing with a list of resources at the end.

It explains how to engage with children and young people after the Covid-19 pandemic to create a 'new normal'.

The participation process

[KIDS Factsheet #3: The Participation Process](#)

Why it is important to have a clear purpose when planning for participation. Think about who you want to involve and how you will recruit. What to think about when planning and delivering a participation activity. The importance of evaluating the process to make sure that the learning makes things better. Plus, a reminder to involve people in the participation process right from the start!

Work experience

[KIDS Factsheet #2: Work Experience](#)

Highlights barriers to work experience and how they should be challenged. It also covers concerns about placements and how to make sure they are meaningful.

Young inspectors

[KIDS Factsheet #8: Young Inspectors](#)

Young inspectors 'inspect' services. They give feedback based on experiences. They identify good practice and make recommendations for improvements.

Gives advice on how to set up a group and support them to develop their skills.

Forums

Disability real action group of Norfolk (DRAGON) project

[D.R.A.G.O.N.s | Nansa](#)

A group of young people with disabilities who aim to increase opportunities for advocacy and participation in Norfolk for young people with SEND.

They work to make sure that SEND opportunities in Norfolk are accessible and that young people are enjoying their services.

Making ourselves heard (MOH) forum

[MOH Forum | Council For Disabled Children](#)

The MOH Forum is the leading national network focusing on disabled children and young people's participation.

The forum allows people who work with children and young people to share learning, resources and examples of best practice, as well as to support each other when challenges arise.

It is aimed at front line workers, decision makers, people who arrange services and anyone else with an interest in hearing the voice of children and young people and parents/carers.

Norfolk in-care council

https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/children-in-care/norfolk-in-care-council/getting-involved

Every child and young person who is in the care of the county council, is automatically a member of Norfolk in Care Council (NiCC). Care leavers who receive the leaving care service, are also automatically members.

There are different ways to take part; monthly meetings, surveys, helping to deliver training sessions for social workers and foster carers and/or helping to interview new workers.

Members can choose how much or little they wish to be involved.

Norfolk SEND youth forum

[Young People | Norfolk SEND Partnership (norfolksendpartnershipiass.org.uk)](#)

An opportunity for young people to share their experiences and work together to improve services for young people with SEND.

Young people can choose to join in with regular online meetings and/or share their thoughts and feelings on the online pinboard.

Norfolk youth advisory boards (YAB's)

https://www.map.uk.net/for-young-people/youth-voice/youth-advisory-boards-yabs/

Youth Advisory Boards (YAB's) are made up of young people and professionals who work together to make changes for young people in their communities. There are seven YAB's, one for each district of Norfolk.

Norfolk youth parliament

https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/your-local-councils-and-mps/members-of-youth-parliament

Members of youth parliament are elected every two years in Norfolk. Their role is to represent the views of young people in their area and make sure the views of young people are listened to by decision makers.

The guinea pig network

PositiveAims (@positiveaims) • Instagram photos and videos

A young person's reference group who meet during half terms. Members have the chance to be involved in the recruitment of staff and the testing of activities and resources. The feedback and knowledge that they give supports the development of new and innovative practices.

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