

Listen

To **Listen** to Children and Young People in our Catholic communities is to be present, attentive and an active participant. Listening to Children and Young People, can encourage them to speak up, build their confidence and ensure our practices are informed by them.

What should we do?

Attentive

Provide workers who are engaging with Children and Young People with Safeguarding and Child Protection Training to equip them with the skills to listen in a safe manner.

We can achieve this by ensuring Safeguarding and Child Protection Training information and Policy and Procedure documents are easily accessible.



Speak Up

Create environments where Children and Young People are listened to and are welcome.

We can achieve this by engaging workers who support a culture of participation and encourage Children and Young People to speak up.



Confidence

Identify opportunities for Children and Young People to participate in decision making processes where their voices can be heard and workers can learn from their insights.

We can achieve this by providing Children and Young People with feedback opportunities such as allowing them to engage with the Parish Pastoral Council or general community discussions.

What have the Children and Young People said...

“Having the opportunity to speak up and participate helps me to express opinions and be listened to”. – Matilda, age 14



At its heart, the call to ‘Listen’ is a call to make a choice for respecting the intrinsic dignity of every human person, this includes our Children and Young People. Many times throughout the gospels, we are shown Jesus’ profound love and respect for the little ones, especially the children who were brought to him. By Listening to Children and Young People, we are recognising their right to be heard and committing anew to their dignity.

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” Matthew 11:15

GOD GAVE ALL CHILDREN THE RIGHT TO FEEL SAFE AT ALL TIMES

HELPING HAND ACTIVITY

- Brainstorm with your child all of the adults that they could put on their helping hand.

Then ask them to insert those names into the fingers. Teach them that if the first person they tell doesn't help them then they need to keep asking the other people on their network. Try and encourage your child to place a professional person on their helping hand such as a teacher, day care staff, doctor, police officer.

The people we choose to put on our helping hand must be A Grown Up:

- 1 Available
- 2 Someone I trust
- 3 Someone who listens and believes me
- 4 Someone who can take action to help me.



IDEAS BOX

Use a hand print and cut out the image to make a network helping hand, practise the skill of problem solving in their everyday life situations using their network hand. Practise with your child phoning someone on their network hand.