



Take 2 Cornwall Participation Policy

At Take 2 Cornwall we believe that actively promoting the participation of young people in the decision-making process creates a sense of partnership and benefits everyone at Take 2 Cornwall: children/young people, staff and parents. We therefore involve the young people whenever decisions are made that affect them.

We follow the principles set out in Articles 12 and 13 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* which state that:

- A child's/young person's opinion should be taken into account in anything that affects them.
- Children/young people should have information disseminated in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions.

Involving and consulting young people helps them to develop new skills such as negotiation, sharing, and understanding the perspectives of others. It helps them to understand how decisions are made and shows them that their opinions are important. At Take 2 Cornwall we actively consult the young people and encourage them to participate in making decisions about the running of Take 2 Cornwall through:

- Asking questions and paying full attention to the young person's response, listening to what they are saying verbally (or through use of visual aids) and also observing their body language
- Group discussions
- Gathering feedback on activities
- Noticeboards
- Regular discussions between young people and staff where the young people are encouraged to express themselves and put forward their ideas.

The age and maturity of each young person, together with the type of the decision being made, determine the extent and nature of their involvement, however, the basic assumption is always that young people will be involved.

We make sure that we act on any consultation with the young person so that they can see that their input has had visible outcomes. If young people suspect that the consultation is just window-dressing they will disengage from the process.

At Take 2 Cornwall the young people have the opportunity to participate and make decisions on a day-to-day basis, including, but not limited to:

- Choosing freely what type of play/activity to engage in
- Choosing what snacks to eat, as well as when and where to eat them
- Preparing snacks themselves
- Selecting new equipment for Take 2 Cornwall
- Drawing up Take 2 Cornwall rules
- Using our resource library to select toys or activities that are not already set out
- Using our suggestion box [or wish tree] to request new resources, activities or other changes
- Activity/Set academic planning ('What do you want to do today in free choice and in what order whiteboard)
- Conducting or discussing risk assessments

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Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021): Learning and Development Requirements [1.11 - 1.17]* and *Child protection [3.27]*.