

Child's Voice and Agency

1. Purpose

Y Whittlesea is deeply committed to ensuring that the voice and agency of every child in our services are recognised, respected, and integrated into all aspects of our programs and practices. This policy outlines our commitment to embedding child agency into our DNA, ensuring that children are active participants in their learning and development.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Y Whittlesea programs and services that involve children.

3. Policy Statement

3.1 Importance of Child's Voice and Agency

Y Whittlesea recognises that children are capable and active contributors to their own learning. We are committed to listening to and valuing children's opinions, ideas, and choices in all aspects of our services. *Example:* Children's suggestions and feedback will be actively sought and considered when planning activities, developing curriculum, and making decisions that affect their daily experiences.

3.2 Embedding Child Agency in Practice

Child agency will be embedded in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of all Y Whittlesea programs. This means that children will have opportunities to make choices, express their preferences, and influence their learning environment. *Example:* In a classroom setting, children will be involved in setting learning goals, choosing activities, and reflecting on their learning experiences.

3.3 Creating an Environment that Fosters Agency

Y Whittlesea will create environments that encourage children to express their thoughts and make decisions. This includes providing age-appropriate tools, resources, and opportunities for children to take an active role in their learning. *Example:* Classrooms will be set up to allow children easy access to materials and resources, enabling them to make choices about their learning independently.

3.4 Commitment to Ongoing Reflection and Improvement

Y Whittlesea is committed to continually reflecting on and improving our practices to ensure that children's voices are at the forefront of our programs. *Example:* Regular staff meetings will include discussions on how child agency is being supported and how practices can be further enhanced.

3.5 Training and Support for Staff

All staff will receive training on the importance of child agency and how to effectively incorporate it into their practice. *Example:* Professional development sessions will focus on strategies for listening to children, facilitating child-led learning, and creating inclusive environments that respect children's voices.

4. **Legislative and Industry Requirements:** [Link](#) to Legislative Compliance Register
5. **Consequences of breaching this policy:** All elements of this policy must be adhered to, and any breach will be dealt with in accordance with the [YMCA Whittlesea Disciplinary and Termination Policy](#).
6. **Policy owner:** The GM Early Years is responsible for keeping this policy current - including making amendments as required, and regular reviews as scheduled.
7. **Document Control:** Review of this policy will be undertaken every two years, or prior as required by law, in consultation with appropriate Y People.

Version:	Description	Amended by:	Updated	Released
V3	Review	Michele Rowse & Rebecca Davies	21/7/25	Aug 2025
V2	Update	Michele Rowse & Rebecca Davies	1/8/2024	8/8/2024
V1	Creation	Fiona Miller	10/08/22	10/01/23