

Standard 3: Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously

WHAT WILL THE COMMISSION LOOK FOR WHEN ASSESSING THIS STANDARD?

Organisations will generally comply if they produce the following documents and undertake the actions in a way that supports the organisation to achieve this Standard.

Documents

- Age-appropriate and easy to understand documents, in print or online, are easily accessible and support children to:
 - understand their rights, including to safety, information and participation
 - know how adults in the organisation should behave
 - understand the organisation’s complaints process and how to raise safety concerns for themselves, their friends or peers
 - know about support services aimed at children.
- The organisation’s policies and procedures:
 - promote children’s empowerment and participation
 - embed support for the rights of children.

Actions

- Staff and volunteers in the organisation engage with children to help them to:
 - understand their rights, including to safety, information and participation
 - know how adults in the organisation should behave
 - understand the organisation’s complaints process and how to raise safety concerns for themselves, their friends or peers
 - know about support services aimed at children
- Practices in the organisation that disempower children are identified and action is taken to change them.
- Staff and volunteers are provided with information to help them understand, recognise and act on signs of child abuse or harm.
- Where relevant, the organisation provides access to sexual abuse prevention programs and other relevant information to children in an age-appropriate and accessible manner.

- The organisation creates opportunities for children to express their views and participate in decisions that impact them. What is heard and learnt from children influences how the organisation works.
- Staff and volunteers are supported to develop knowledge and skills to help children participate, express their views and raise their concerns.

The organisation supports children to develop social connections and friendships with their peers, build skills in children to support their peers and challenge bullying or isolating behaviour between children.

*** Please refer to <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/the-11-child-safe-standards/> for more detailed and continually updated information ***