

**Dunlop Early Childhood Centre**  
**Participation Policy**  
**Leading/Influencing and Shaping Change**



### **Introduction**

Active participation is the process by which individuals can influence decisions. At Dunlop ECC, we ensure all service users have the opportunity to participate in decisions which affect them, their child and Dunlop ECC.

### **The Benefits of Participation on Children**

All children are entitled to the freedom to express their opinions and to have a say in matters affecting their social, economic, religious, cultural and political life. Participation rights also include the right to be heard and the right to information.

Active participation engages children with these rights and as they mature, participation helps children bring about the realisation they have an active role to play in society.

At Dunlop ECC, our skilled staff are experienced in implementing a range of strategies to enable all children, including our youngest children and those with additional support needs to participate and share their thoughts and opinions on matters and issues concerning them.

### **It is our aim**

To ensure the active participation of all stakeholders of Dunlop ECC, this includes parents/carers, pupils and staff.

### **It is our objective**

To encourage parents, pupils and staff to participate in all aspects of the life of Dunlop ECC and beyond to include the community of Dunlop.

### **Methodology**

We enable participation of all stakeholders in Dunlop ECC through

- Involvement in the consultation processes: making comments, compliments, suggestions or complaints
- Annual Parent/Carer and Child Questionnaires that evaluates the service provided
- Being involved in forums or councils that lead to change
- Assessing learning and identifying targets and next steps
- Making positive change in the local area and beyond

## **Conclusion**

At Dunlop ECC we believe the benefit of active participation of all stakeholders is far reaching. This includes

## **Impact on Individuals**

- Skill development, aspiration raising and confidence building
- Raising awareness and knowledge about services and how organisations work
- Promoting active citizenship
- Enabling children and young people to make a positive contribution

## **Impact on Dunlop ECC as a Community**

- Building a shared understanding
- A sense of belonging across all stakeholders
- A vibrant local democracy where change is influenced according to immediate and long term needs
- Developing a positive image of children and young people as citizens and community members

## **Impact on Service Providers**

- Services meeting actual immediate and long term needs rather than assumed needs and thus leading to improvement
- Children and young people bringing fresh perspectives and new ideas
- Feedback from children and young people leading to improved services