



Renfrewshire's Nurturing Relationships Approach

Voice is not Enough
The Lundy Model of Child Participation

Sandra Menary Renfrewshire
Educational Psychology Service

Voice is not enough

Lundy Model

This model provides a pathway to help conceptualise Article 12 of the UNCRC. It focuses on four distinct, albeit interrelated, elements. The four elements have a rational chronological order.



Scottish context

[The Children \(Scotland\) Act \(1995\)](#)

[Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000](#)

[The Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#)

[The Education \(Scotland\) Act \(2016\)](#)
[Education \(Additional Support for Learning\) \(Scotland\) Act 2004](#)

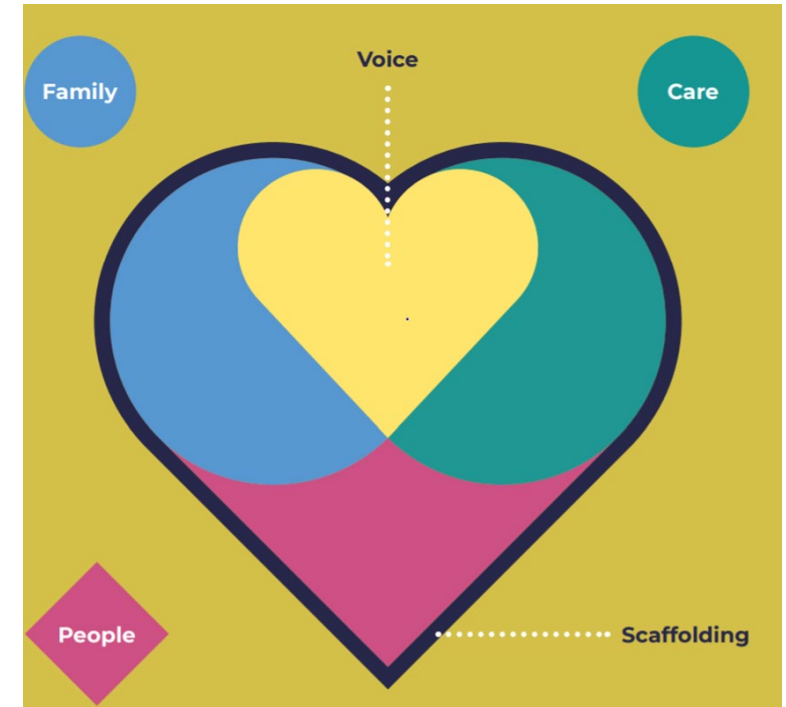
[Supporting Children's Learning, Statutory Guidance \(2017\)](#)

[Presumption to provide education in a mainstream setting: guidance \(2019\)](#)

[Support for Learning: All our Children and All their Potential. Review of Additional Support for Learning Implementation: Report June 2020.](#)

[Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\).](#)

[The Independent Care Review 2020](#)



UNCRC



Article 12 – Respect for the views of the child

“States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.”

Lundy Model

This model provides a pathway to help conceptualise Article 12 of the UNCRC. It focuses on four distinct, albeit interrelated, elements. The four elements have a rational chronological order.



Space

Children and young people must be given safe, inclusive opportunities to form and express their views

SPACE

- How can children and young people feel safe to express their views?
- Have you allowed enough time to listen to and hear their views?
- How do you make sure that all children and young people are heard?

Lundy Model

This model provides a pathway to help conceptualise Article 12 of the UNCRC. It focuses on four distinct, albeit interrelated, elements. The four elements have a rational chronological order.



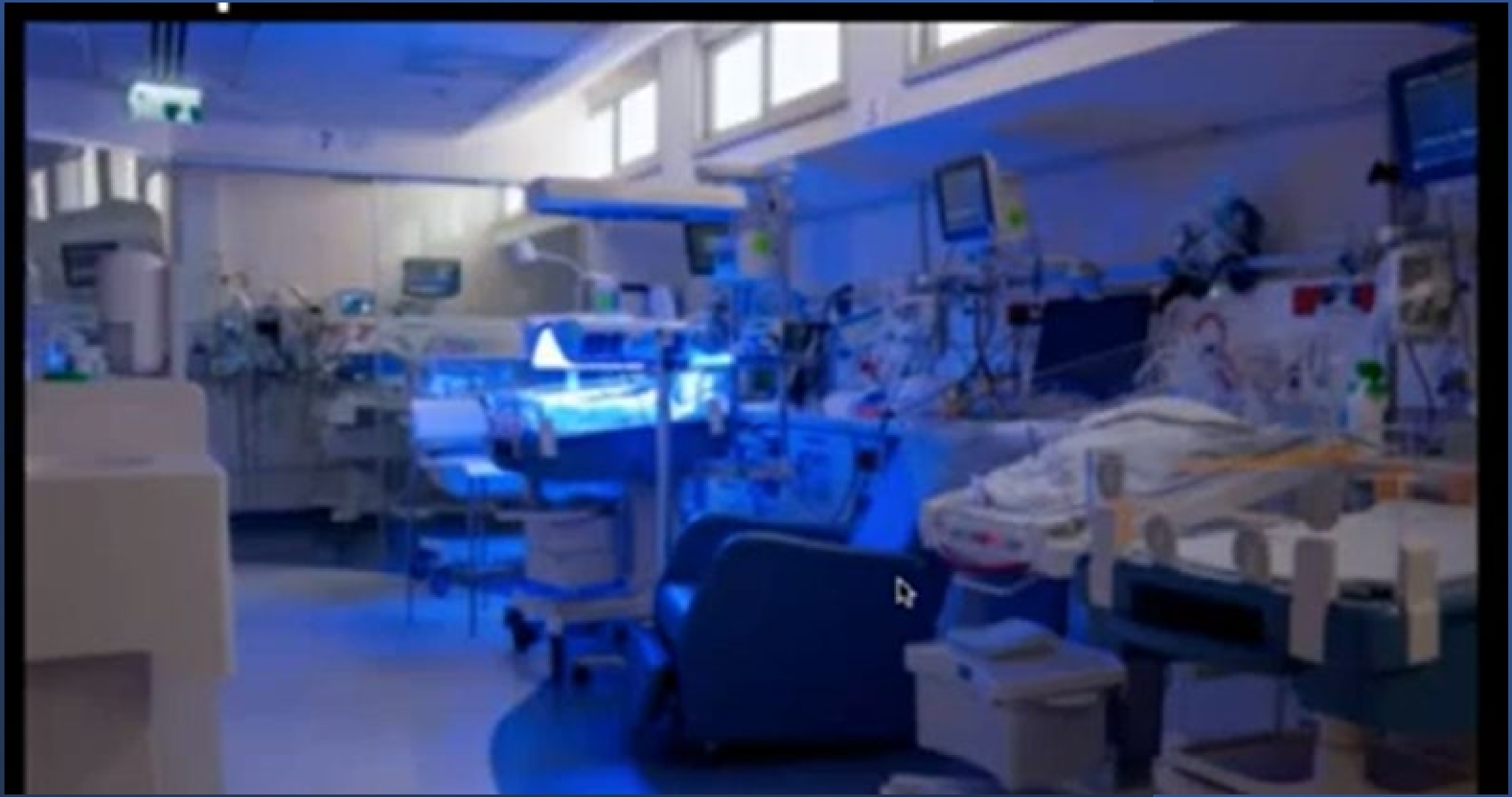
Voice

Children and young people must be facilitated to express their views

- How are children and young people provided with the support they need to give their views and be heard?
- How can they raise the things that matter to them?
- How are they offered different ways of giving their views?

VOICE

Obligation of **Article 5** – there is a right and a duty on the part of adults to provide children with guidance on the exercise of their rights – **create the conditions for children to build their capacity in being able to express their views.**



Parity of rights for children ASN

UN [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (UNCRPD) Article 7 (3)

*States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, **on an equal basis with other children**, and to be provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right.*

Children's voice & Participation: Renfrewshire's Nurturing Relationships Approach (RNRA) Toolkit



RNRA Development Team

RENFREWSHIRE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE July 2022 (Revised April 2026)

[Children's voice & Participation: Renfrewshire's Nurturing Relationships Approach \(RNRA\) Toolkit](#)

Lundy Model

This model provides a pathway to help conceptualise Article 12 of the UNCRC. It focuses on four distinct, albeit interrelated, elements. The four elements have a rational chronological order.



Audience

The views
must be
listened to

- How do you show that you are ready and willing to listen to children and young people's views?
- How do you make sure they understand what you can do with their views?

AUDIENCE

Lundy Model

This model provides a pathway to help conceptualise Article 12 of the UNCRC. It focuses on four distinct, albeit interrelated, elements. The four elements have a rational chronological order.



Influence

The views must be acted upon, as appropriate

- How will children and young people know how much influence they can have on decisions?
- How will you give them feedback?
- How will you share with them the impact of their views on decisions?
- How will you explain the reasons for the decisions taken?

INFLUENCE

Lundy Model

This model provides a pathway to help conceptualise Article 12 of the UNCRC. It focuses on four distinct, albeit interrelated, elements. The four elements have a rational chronological order.



Barriers to children and young people having influence

Highland Community Planning Partnership
Children's Rights and Participation
Improvement group

Two years on

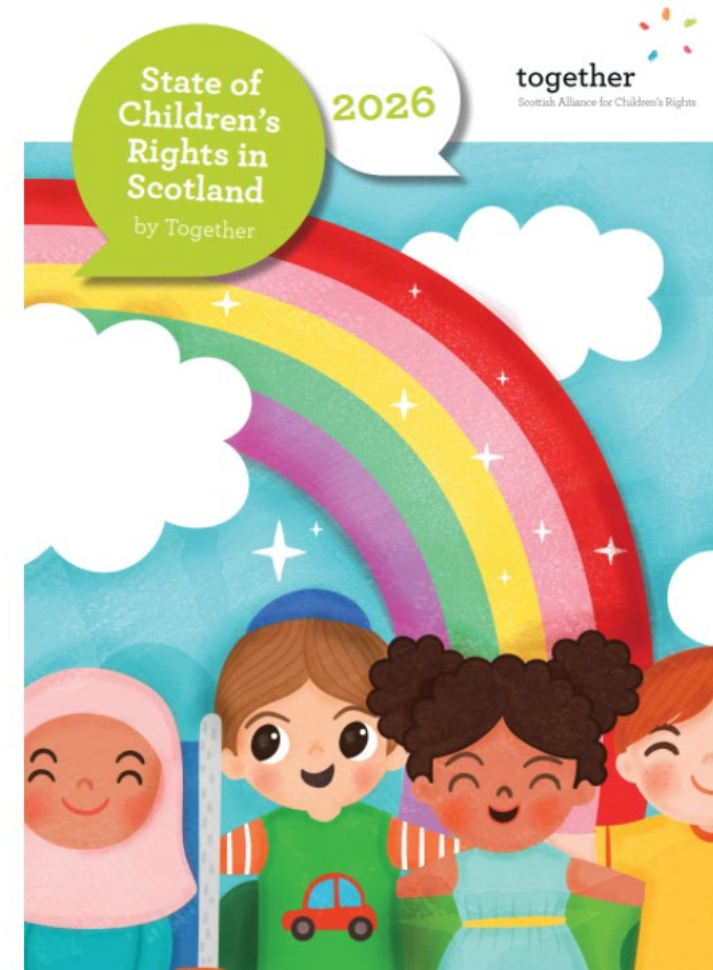
There is a lot of 'voice' but less 'influence'

Relatively narrow 'audience'

The voices gathered are also often limited to
particular groups

Methods remain adult-focussed

Adults set the terms of the problem and the
questions being asked



Why are we stuck in the first easy steps?

The limiting impact of the attitudes and assumptions of adults

Myths about the age of 12

Children do not have ideas to contribute better than what the adults already know

Children are too young or inexperienced

Parents or other adults can speak better for them

Children are too vulnerable or innocent to take part in discussions of difficult issues that affect them.

Assumptions about what issues do and do not affect children

