

# Making Space

## Background

The Convention on the Rights of the Child says in Article 12: Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

This right requires mutual respect between children and adults to listen to each other and make the best decision possible for the people involved, children included. It also means that children have to be given the opportunity to have their voices heard in a space where they feel safe and respected.

## Materials

Plain paper, pencils, markers or color pencils, or anything creative you'd like to work with

## Activity

1. Think about all the places in your life where decisions are made, make a list on a brainstorming page. These could be the principles office, the school overall, the city government, your home, anywhere where decisions that affect your life are being made. (You can also think of yourself as a part of a group of young people, like the student body, or your class)
2. Choose one place that stands out for you in your life, which ever place you'd like to work on.
3. How friendly to children is that place? Is it easy for you to go to the person or people making decisions and voice an opinion? Are you heard and taken into consideration when decisions there are made?
  - . Divide the paper in half, on the first half, **Draw (or list)** the place you're thinking about and include any obstacles that you face to being included as a voice that matters in decisions being made that affect your (or your group's) life.
4. After thinking on these questions think about what would you change to make that place more youth friendly? What would make you able to speak in that space so that you felt your opinions were respected?
  - . **Draw (or list)** on the other half of the paper how you think that place should look with all the things that would help you and other young people be a part of it.