

Young Children's Voices

Resources within the UK

[Starcatchers](#) are a Scotland based Arts and Early Years organisation. They work with babies and children from birth to five years old alongside their parents/carers, to provide access to creative opportunities. Through direct work in communities, professional development support and advocacy, they aim to advance children's rights to engage with and participate in arts and cultural experiences from birth.



[PlayBoard NI](#) are the leading charity in Northern Ireland dedicated to the development and promotion of children and young people's play. They are a rights-based organisation formed on the premise that play is fundamental to a healthy and happy childhood. PlayBoard NI are renowned for their participatory work with young children, particularly through the lens of play.

The [National Children's Bureau](#) (NCB) work across England and Northern Ireland to influence policy, improve practice, and involve children and young people with the aim of building a better childhood. They were instrumental in establishing the Young Children's Voices Network (2006-2011) to promote listening within the early years, designing a series of resources to promote best practice in this area. NCB continue to provide training in Listening to Young Children.



[Children in Wales](#) (Plant Yng Nghymru) are the national umbrella body for organisations and individuals who work with children, young people and their families in Wales. They jointly coordinate and facilitate the [Children's Rights in the Early Years \(CREY\) Network](#) with the School of Education at Swansea University. Through this work they have developed practical guidance that supports young children's right to have their voice heard and be listened to.

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Practical Tools

The following tools and checklists can serve as a jumping-off point for beginning or enhancing your practice around listening to babies' and young children's voice. They are aligned with the Principles and Core Elements laid out above, and are representative of best practice in the field:

- From *The Theory and Practice of Voice in Early Childhood: An International Exploration*, edited by Lorna Arnott and Kate Wall, a collection of talking point posters and reflective and strategic conversation starters. These are meant to support self-reflection or stimulate discussion and action with others, and to assist in setting goals for practice development.
- From the Scottish Government's [Voice of the Infant: Best practice guidelines and infant pledge](#), a Good Practice Checklist. This is a simple assessment to evaluate how successfully a service or programme is facilitating babies' and very young children's participation by eliciting and supporting infant voice.
- From the National Children's Bureau's Young Children's Voices Network, the Listening as a way of life series – a set of leaflets with details of research, practice and methods that work with young children from birth to eight years old: ["Developing a Listening Culture"](#) and ["Listening to Young Disabled Children"](#).

