

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

The Scottish Government wants Scotland to be the best place to grow up. They have a plan called the Children and Young People Bill. They had a consultation for this Bill and Children's Parliament were asked to help 9 to 12 year olds have a say. Children imagined Scotland as a garden and discussed what children would need to grow up well in this garden. This poster tells you what children said to the Scottish Government. All the children who took part in workshops were given a copy of this poster to decorate and make their own. You can learn more about the children's work at www.childrensparliament.org.uk

What teenagers need: Inspiration, advice, loving parents, free from violence, education, space, no drugs or alcohol, Support, no bullying, privacy.

What primary age kids need: Freedom, love everywhere, friends, more play time, being outdoors, choices, Healthy food, To be safe online, Parents who look after you.

What toddlers need: Love, songs and games, stones, freedom to play, a hand to hold, Health check-ups, Family, kisses and cuddles.

What babies need: Loving parents, understanding, protection, breast milk, Laughter, attention, to play, no violence, Care and cuddles, to be warm and cosy.

Why don't adults listen to children?

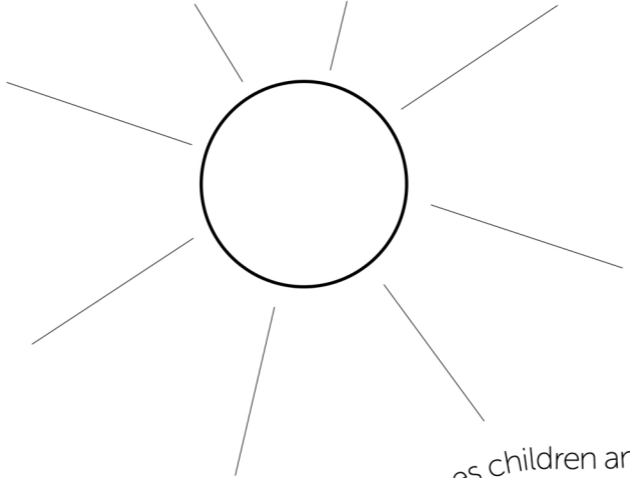
- They think children don't understand.
- They think they know what's right.
- Some adults don't want children to know what's happening.
- If you go to them too much they stop listening.
- They think we'll make a fuss.
- They don't realise children have good ideas.
- Maybe they get bored.
- They think it's easier if they just decide.
- Some adults can be stubborn.

Every garden needs gardeners - our parents and carers are like our gardeners



Children need parents and carers who...
 Let children have their say, are friendly and responsible, care about how you feel, can cope without shouting or hitting, give you healthy food and treats, reassure you, will be there for you, stay interested in you, teach you to care for others.

Some parents and carers need help and support with things like...
 Paying bills and rent, keeping the house clean, being happy, being a parent for the first time, help to stop drinking, having a new partner, helping you when you are ill, a helping hand to be responsible, knowing what's right and wrong if they do something bad.



Sometimes children and families need special help from professional people and carers...
 If children need help or support the Scottish government says they should have one plan...

- The Child's Plan! How to make it work:**
- Stop adults shouting.
 - Plan times to talk.
 - Make adults listen.
 - Ask children what they think, want and need.
 - Explain choices to children.
 - Use the plan so you don't get in a muddle.
 - Change the plan as children grow.

Signs on the lawn:

- Children and foster carers should build trust.
- Children should keep in touch with family.
- Children should keep in touch with friends.
- Children should meet foster carers before they go.
- Children need to understand why they are in foster care.
- Brothers and sisters should stay together.
- Making foster care better.

It would be difficult to be a named person because:

- You would really need to know every child
- You need to give guidance but not be bossy
- Problems can be difficult to solve
- Adults can be angry and not listen
- They might be really busy
- Every child is an individual

- And what would happen if you didn't get on with your head gardener?

Make it in the law that adults have to listen to children.
 Enforce children's rights instead of it being optional to people.

Head Gardener

To help children grow and bloom the Scottish Government thinks someone should be like a head gardener - the government calls this someone a Named Person. Children thought this would work if:

- They put you first.
- They really knew you.
- They could fix problems.
- They check on you.
- They help you feel good about yourself.
- They would fight for your rights.