

Further information:



www.staedteregion-aachen.de/demokratiebildung

- Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (2019): online: www.kita-einstieg.fruelie-chancen.de/fileadmin/PDF/Kita-Einstieg/nifbe_Kita-Einstieg_Kriterientext_Partizipation.pdf
- Hansen, R., Knauer, R. & Sturzenhecker, B. (2015): Participation in child day-care facilities. How democracy building succeeds with children! Weimar: das netz.
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Ministerium für Kinder, Familie,
Flüchtlinge und Integration
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



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Parents' information



druckerei.staedteregion.aachen/A.42/Demokratiebildung und Partizipation in der Kita 03.22.EN
Illustration: Partizipation.leiter.Darstellung nach Roger Hart (1992) - Stand: März 2022

Democracy Building and Participation in the Day-care Facility

“The Nursery of Democracy”

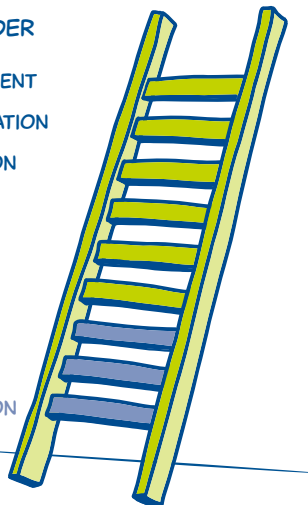
The project “Democracy Building and Participation in the Day-care Facility” supports day-care facilities in the StädteRegion Aachen in becoming a “Nursery of Democracy. Children, parents and professionals work together to create a participatory everyday routine.

What is participation?

“Participation” means “sharing decisions that affect one’s own life and the life of the community and finding solutions to problems together.” (Schröder, R.: 1995) Participation can be designed to be more or less intensive.

PARTICIPATION LADDER

9. SELF-GOVERNMENT
8. SELF-DETERMINATION
7. CO-DETERMINATION
6. INVOLVEMENT
5. INFORMATION
4. PARTICIPATION
3. ALIBI PARTICIPATION
2. DECORATION
1. EXTERNAL DETERMINATION



What does participation in the day-care facility mean?

Every day-care facility is legally obliged to involve each child appropriately in all matters concerning him or her, depending on his or her age and stage of development.

Participation describes an attitude that includes: Respecting children and trusting in their abilities. Pedagogical staff and children enter into a continuous development process that requires openness and trust.



! Participation does not mean that children are allowed to have a say in everything or determine everything themselves. The duty of care and supervision as well as the fulfilment of the educational mission remain the responsibility of the professionals. Especially when children endanger themselves or others, the educational staff must intervene – when in doubt, even against the will of the child.

What does this mean in relation to the day-to-day routine in a day-care facility?

In relation to the day-to-day life of a day-care facility, participation means that children are given the opportunity to participate in decision-making in the different areas of the day-to-day life of the day-care facility. The day-care facility lays down the rules and limits of participation transparently for all in a constitutional assembly, for example. Professionals draw up a day-care facility constitution with the participation of parents and children.



What do the children get out of it?

Children learn to actively shape their everyday life and to exchange their feelings and opinions with others. Children learn to be self-effective. For example, when organising meals, planning the next outing, organising parties. Participation strengthens self-confidence and social behaviour.

