PARTICIPATION AND LISTENING SKILLS

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CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD 1989 (CRC)

54 articles divided in 3 parts:

- 1-41 → children rights
- 42-45 → implementations and monitoring system
- 46-54 → ratification procedure

3 Optional Protocols:

- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure
CRC: WHO IS PARTY OF THE CONVENTION?
3 «P» OF CRC:

• **PROTECTION**
right to be shielded from certain acts and practices (such as abuses, exploitation, carelessness, mistreatment etc.)

• **PROVISION**
refers to sharing and distribution and assistance; it includes the right to possess, receive or have access to certain resources and services connected to survival, to growing up and receiving adequate care and assistance “to the maximum extent to their available resources”.

• **PARTICIPATION**
stands for the right to do things, express oneself and have an effective voice as an individual child and as a larger group.

Source: [http://www.cyc-net.org/cyc-online/cycol-0500-threepees.html](http://www.cyc-net.org/cyc-online/cycol-0500-threepees.html)
MOST IMPORTANT ARTICLES OF CRC

Art. 2 – Non discrimination
States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status

Art. 3 – Best interest of the child
In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration

Art. 6 – Right to life
States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life. States Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child

Art. 12 – RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE AND TO BE HEARD
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
WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF LISTENING AND PARTICIPATION?
1. Direct improvements in one's life and new opportunities
2. **Ability to protect yourself and reject abuse**
3. Improvement of self-confidence and self-esteem
4. **Improvement of one's own abilities: problem-solving, negotiation, communication skills, etc.**
5. Acquisition of the ability to participate in democratic and group processes: understanding of different points of view, ability to compromise, sense of responsibility, etc.
6. **Feel that you have a purpose and be competent in dealing with the challenges of life**
7. Conviction of having a positive impact on one's own life and on that of the community: an active role in society
8. **Learn and put into practice the skills of active and responsible citizenship**
9. Increasing the visibility of minors and their problems
10. **Understanding and appreciation by adults of the abilities of children with consequent change in attitudes towards them**
Source: The School of Life (2016). “Being a good listener”,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BdbiZcNBXg&frags=pl%2Cwn
WHAT ARE THE BEST FORMS OF LISTENING?
3 LEVELS OF LISTENING

PASSIVE LISTENING
- Low communicative efficacy
- Low difficulty

ACTIVE LISTENING
- Medium communicative efficacy
- Medium difficulty

EMPATHIC LISTENING
- High communicative efficacy
- High difficulty
ACTIVE LISTENING

1. PAY ATTENTION TO THE SPEAKER

Give the speaker your attention
Pay attention to your non-verbal communication
Look at the speaker directly
Put aside distracting thoughts
Don't mentally prepare a rebuttal!
Avoid being distracted by environmental factors
"Listen" to the speaker's body language

Source: https://www.mindtools.com/CommSkll/ActiveListening.htm
ACTIVE LISTENING

2. SHOW YOU ARE LISTENING

Use your own body language and gestures to show that you are engaged
Smile and use other facial expressions
Make sure that your posture is open and interested
Encourage the speaker to continue, with small verbal comments like yes, and "uh huh"

Source: https://www.mindtools.com/CommSkll/ActiveListening.htm
3. PROVIDE FEEDBACK

Our personal filters, assumptions, judgments, and beliefs can distort what we hear.

This may require you to reflect on what the speaker is saying and to ask questions.

Reflect on what has been said by paraphrasing: "What I'm hearing is..." and "Sounds like you are saying..."

Ask questions to clarify: "What do you mean when you say... ." "Is this what you mean?"

Summarize the speaker's comments periodically.

Source: https://www.mindtools.com/CommSkill/ActiveListening.htm
4. DEFER JUDGEMENT

Interrupting is a waste of time. It frustrates the speaker and limits full understanding of the message.
Allow the speaker to finish each point before asking questions.
Don't interrupt with counter arguments.

Source: https://www.mindtools.com/CommSkll/ActiveListening.htm
ACTIVE LISTENING

5. IF REQUESTED, RESPOND APPROPRIATELY

Active listening is designed to encourage respect and understanding. You are gaining information and perspective.

You add nothing by attacking the speaker or otherwise putting her down.

Be candid, open and honest in your response.

Assert your opinions respectfully.

Treat the other person in a way that you think she would want to be treated

Source: https://www.mindtools.com/CommSkll/ActiveListening.htm
Active listening is a technique used in restorative practices, such as mediation.

Mediation is an instrument of restorative justice.

Restorative justice is a model of rehabilitative justice, distinct from the traditional model of retributive justice based on the principle of ethical-retributive function of punishment.

Restorative justice aims to promote not only the reparation of the damage caused by crime, but also the reconciliation between offender, victim and community.

Restorative justice has come out of the criminal sphere finding a preventive application = restorative practices (Mannozzi & Lodigiani, 2015), such as school mediation, social mediation and intercultural mediation.