

The Lundy model of child participation

This model was developed by academic Laura Lundy, Professor of international children's rights at the School of Education at the Queen's University of Belfast.¹ Her model, detailed in a 2007 publication in the British Educational Journal, provides a way of conceptualising a child's right to participation, as laid down in Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.² It is intended to focus decision-makers on the distinct, albeit interrelated, elements of the provision.

The four elements have a rational chronological order: **space, voice, audience, influence**.

The Lundy Model of Participation was prominently featured and endorsed by the Irish Department of Children and Youth Affairs in their recent National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making (2015 – 2020).

¹ <http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofEducation/AboutUs/Staff/Academic/ProfLauraLundy/>

² Laura, Lundy (2007) "'Voice' is not enough: conceptualising Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child", British Educational Research Journal, 33:6, 927-942, available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01411920701657033>



This model provides a way of conceptualising Article 12 of the UNCRC which is intended to focus educational decision-makers on the distinct, albeit interrelated, elements of the provision. The four elements have a rational chronological order:

- **SPACE:** Children must be given safe, inclusive opportunities to form and express their view
- **VOICE:** Children must be facilitated to express their view
- **AUDIENCE:** The view must be listened to.
- **INFLUENCE:** The view must be acted upon, as appropriate.

Figure 1 Lundy's Model of Participation as included in Ireland's National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020³

The Lundy Voice Model Checklist for Participation

Moreover, for Ireland's National Strategy, Professor Laura Lundy (in consultation with a sub-group) developed a checklist on participation.⁴ The Strategy details that "this checklist aims to help organisations, working with and for children and young people, to comply with

³ Ireland Department of Children and Youth Affairs, National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020 (17 June 2015), p. 21. Accessible here: <http://dcya.gov.ie/documents/playandrec/20150617NatStratParticipationReport.pdf>

⁴ Ireland Department of Children and Youth Affairs, National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020 (17 June 2015), p. 22. Accessible here: <http://dcya.gov.ie/documents/playandrec/20150617NatStratParticipationReport.pdf>

Article 12 of the UNCRC and ensure that children have the space to express their views; their voice is enabled; they have an audience for their views; and their views will have influence".⁵



Figure 2 Lundy's Voice Model Checklist for Participation as included in Ireland's National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020⁶

More information on the model and the checklist can be found in Laura Lundy's [publication](#) on child participation.

⁵ Ireland Department of Children and Youth Affairs, National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020 (17 June 2015), p. 22. Accessible here: <http://dcya.gov.ie/documents/playandrec/20150617NatStratParticipationReport.pdf>

⁶ Ireland Department of Children and Youth Affairs, National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020 (17 June 2015), p. 21. Accessible here: <http://dcya.gov.ie/documents/playandrec/20150617NatStratParticipationReport.pdf>