



3.2.5 Principles of participation in child and youth services

Social Code Book 8 operationalises the provisions of the Basic Law, on human rights and the rights of the child, especially with regard to participation.

- Children and adolescents have the right to an upbringing as an independent, responsible and socially competent individual.
- Children and adolescents must be able to participate in all decisions that affect them.
- Children and adolescents have the right to air grievances about violations of their rights without the fear of sanctions.

But: **rights of participation are tied to the maturity of the child or adolescent.** Child and youth services thus has to balance respecting the participation rights of children and adolescents against imposing paternalistic restrictions.