

Child protection

People have different views on how best to look after the interests of children and protect them from harm. These views are often shaped by culture, background, knowledge and experience.

Use this activity to help community groups begin to discuss these views and agree basic child protection standards.



Step 1

In the local language, write the words 'strongly agree', 'agree', 'disagree' and 'strongly disagree' on four separate pieces of paper. Place the signs in a row on the floor or in different parts of the room.

Step 2

Give each person a copy of the statements on the page opposite, translated into the local language. Ask them to read each statement and tick the box that best describes their feelings (strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree). Please note: these statements are discussion-starters, not right or wrong answers.

Step 3

Once everyone has finished, read out one of the statements and ask people to stand by the sign that has their answer on it for that particular statement.

Step 4

Ask people to explain why they chose their answers. As they discuss their views, encourage them to think about the impact on children of the different situations mentioned. Remind people to take it in turns to speak and to be respectful of each other.

Step 5

Repeat the exercise for each statement.

Step 6

At the end of the activity, ask participants what they have learnt. Use this as a starting point for the development or improvement of a group child protection policy.



Please note: this activity might be difficult for people who have experienced abuse in the past. Make sure they can speak to someone about how they are feeling, and be ready to refer them to support services available in your local area.

Statements

Read the following statements.

Tick the box that best describes your feelings.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1. Hitting children is always wrong and is a form of child abuse.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Sexual abuse of children is not a problem in this country.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Using a stick as a way of disciplining children in school is OK.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Reporting abuse is likely to make things worse for the child so it is better not to do or say anything.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Children should be seen and not heard.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. It is never acceptable to leave a child alone in the house, even if they are well behaved.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Children's ideas cannot be taken seriously.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. It is not normal for children to cry once they are old enough to go to school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Children with disabilities are more at risk of being abused than other children.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Staff employed to teach or care for children are unlikely to abuse them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Children often make up stories about being abused.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Boys are less likely to be sexually abused than girls.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. A faith leader would never abuse a child.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Women are less likely to abuse children than men.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Adapted from Keeping Children Safe child protection training materials: keepingchildrensafe.global