



# Life-skills, Leadership and Limitless Potential (LLLP)

## Worksheet

Participation



Programme designed by Abi Billingham

Please contact Kate D'Arcy regarding any questions or feedback you might have:  
[kate.d'arcy@beds.ac.uk](mailto:kate.d'arcy@beds.ac.uk).

# Worksheet

## Participation

### Aim

- To understand what 'participation' is

### Resources

- Principles of participation
- Stages of the participation ladder

# Worksheet

## Participation

### Process

#### **Participation:**

Explain that you are going to explore what 'participation' means. Ask the group to work in pairs and talk to each other for 5 minutes about what they think participation is. Then ask them to share their ideas and write responses on flipchart paper.

Now ask what the basic principles of 'participation' are – or 'the rules' of participation. They should shout out their answers.

You should then provide the following list of principles on flip chart paper. These are not the only principles but are useful as a starting point in the things to look out for that would tell us if something was participatory or not.

- People knowing that they usually hold the most power and letting other people be in control or have power
- Listening to and focusing on the reality of other people's lives as they see it (normally the people who are least powerful)
- Learning from people we don't normally learn from, i.e. not just adults and those in authority
- Believing that everyone has the ability to make decisions and should influence these
- Hearing the views and experiences of the least powerful people and those we don't normally hear from

- Letting everyone speak and make decisions
- Being aware of yourself and your power and position in the world and how this affects others
- Sharing: of information and ideas (not just one sided)
- Learning is happening all the time: reflecting on challenges and adapting
- The people experiencing the issues are the experts
- Creating opportunities for young people to represent themselves, to have power to make decisions and influence change

#### **Ladder of participation:**

Put the different stages of Hart's ladder of participation on the floor. Explain each stage from 8 (which represents participation) to 1 (which represents non-participation).

Read out some scenarios of young people's involvement and ask the group to position themselves on the ladder based on what stage of participation they think the scenario represents. Ask:

- What do they think about each stage of the ladder?
- Are there pros and cons to each stage?
- Which stages best represent the principles they explored earlier?



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