

Outcome 4: Young people participate safely and effectively in groups



Indicator 8: Young people shape the direction or progress of a group

Ladder of participation activity

This activity measures the impact of young people's involvement in a group.

- Ask young people to work in small groups
- Explain that you want to understand how often young people shape what happens within a group and the ladder of participation helps us to think about and organise our ideas. Talk young people through the ladder of participation (below)
- Ask young people to think about all the opportunities/projects/events/activities they have been involved in as a member of the group (it's useful there to set a time scale i.e. within the last 6 months). Do this individually and write each opportunity on a post it note
- Then ask each group to put the opportunities they have developed where they think they fit on the ladder
- Give young people some stickers and ask them to put stickers on post its where they felt that their participation really shaped that activity/event/project etc.
- In groups look at those post-its with stickers on and the try to explain what difference young people's participation made to that opportunity and give an example.

Harts Ladder of Participation¹

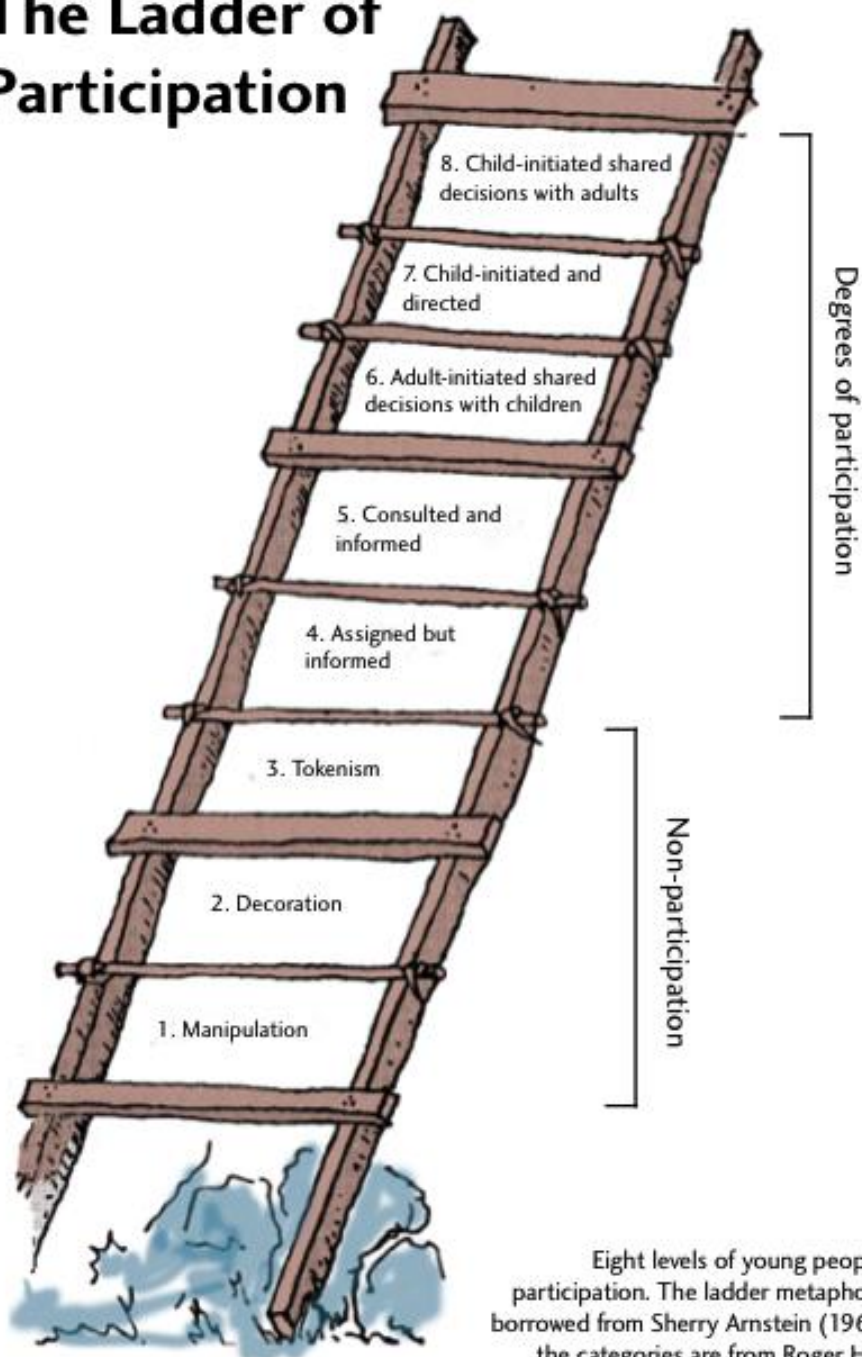
In 1992, Roger Hart developed the Ladder of Participation. The bottom three rungs are non-participation; the remaining 5 rungs outline degrees of participation.

¹ https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/childrens_participation.pdf





The Ladder of Participation





Rung 8 – CYP led activities in which decision-making is shared between CYP and adults working as equal partners

Rung 7 – CYP led activities with little input from adults

Rung 6 – Adult led activities, in which decision-making is shared with CYP

Rung 5 – Adult led activities in which CYP are consulted and informed about how their input will be used and the outcomes of adult decisions

Rung 4 – Adult led activities in which CYP understand purpose, decision-making process and have a role

Non-participation

Rung 3 – Adult led activities in which CYP may be consulted but with minimal opportunities for feedback

Rung 2 - Adult led activities in which CYP understand purpose, but have no input in how they are planned

Rung 1 – Adult-led activities in which children and young people do as directed without understanding of the purpose of activities

