

Decision making

At Playcentre, we usually make decisions using consensus, and you might find this works for your group when it comes to all decision-making, however, sometimes we might need to find other ways!

Robbie Burke a Playcentre parent who provided us with the taonga “Making Consensus Work” a book to guide us in our Playcentre journey suggests there are circumstances where the decision may need to be made outside of consensus, such as if,

- the proposal requires a yes/no response
- the group has no control over implementing the outcome
- it perpetuates injustice.”

“Consensus” - Robbie Burke - Playcentre Journal 151, winter 2015



Hui

Discussion

Discuss and agree on the decision-making process your Centre will use. One idea is to place a time limit on the time spent trying to reach a consensus decision and move to vote after that.

At any point during a discussion, you may want to get a sense of where the group stand. A good way to do this is by using a ‘temperature check’ (thumbs up, down, or sideways) to see how people are feeling or if they are ready to decide. This helps the facilitator focus on those that still have questions/ concerns.

Ensuring all voices are heard and people have the understanding they need to decide is important. The group might need to arrange an additional meeting to discuss the matter further or to go away and find more information.

Note: A consensus decision does not require everyone to agree, but rather that everyone can live with the decision. Those that have concerns, but believe it is better for the group to go with the proposal might want to ‘withdraw concern’. Others might have concerns but can live with the decision of the majority and can choose to ‘stand aside’.

The Decision

If you choose to vote, a majority vote is probably the simplest method. You might do this by a show of hands, or if a blind vote is required, each person could be given a piece of paper to write their vote on, and then two people could open the votes, count them, and present the outcome. This would be your final decision.

If you hold online meetings, you could use polls or cast a vote by messaging two designated people, who then count votes, cross-check they have the same outcome and present the outcome for your group's final decision.



Playcentre 

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