

## Different needs of participants

There is no minimum age for inclusion. Children and young people should be able to participate in the manner required by their age and maturity.

Hands-on practices and interaction are especially important in the inclusion of young children. People differ and inclusion must take into account the individual, language and cultural needs of each child and young person as well as accessibility\*.

Every child has the right to express his or her opinions and views. Inclusion should be possible also for those children and young people who do not communicate through speech or who do not speak Finnish or Swedish.

Children with disabilities, multicultural children and children who belong to sexual and gender minorities are especially vulnerable to discrimination. Special attention should be paid to their possibilities to participate.

Some children and young people can be reached most easily through a day care centre or school. In other cases, cooperation with various organisations or other leisure actors is the most effective way of getting close to day-to-day situations of children and young people. Often, cooperation between different actors holds a key role in ensuring accessibility.

\*see [www.eesteeton.fi](http://www.eesteeton.fi)

- A message about the opportunity to participate targeted at different groups such as schools, day care centres, youth services, organisations and families.
- Actively express the wish that children and young people from different backgrounds attend the event.
- Ensure that children understand and are able to participate in whatever language is easiest and possible for them.
- When you use online tools in participation, make sure that they can also be read with the screen readers used by many people with chronic illnesses and disabilities.
- When you organise events, ensure the physical accessibility of the facilities, lighting and assess the need for interpretation and assistants.
- If questions are asked relating to the family or home of a child or young person during participation, take into account the diversity of families.