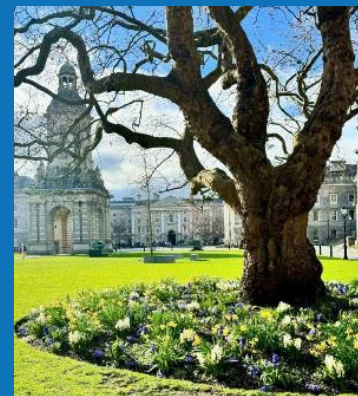




Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin



“My wish is that doctors and nurses talk to me”:
Research on Children’s Participation in
Healthcare

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Children's preferences



It is better if the doctor tells you things stage by stage instead of telling you in one big sentence (Boy 13 yrs).

I wish that the doctors and nurses could speak to us all together and then if you didn't understand something, your parents could explain later (Boy 12 yrs)

Doctors should listen more. I'm not saying that they don't listen, I'm saying that children should have a say (Girl 11 yrs).

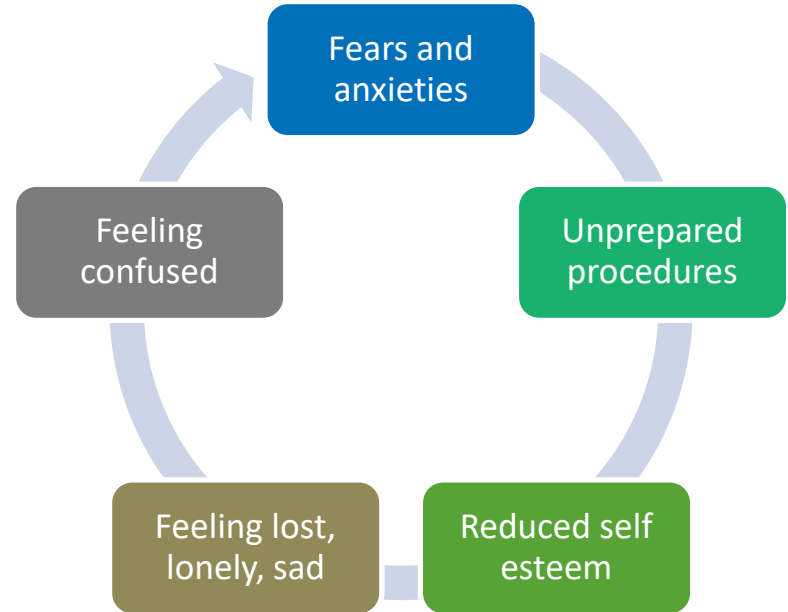
I don't want to know bad things. I don't want to be told bad things because it might make me really sad and scared (Boy 10yrs)

I'd like them to explain it more because it makes me feel braver and more involved (Girl 9 yrs)

My wish is that doctors and nurses talk to me (Child 7 years).

Benefits for children

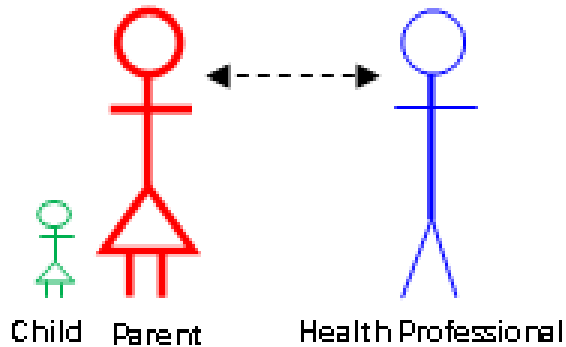
- Enhanced understanding & satisfaction
- Feeling valued
- Decreased fears and anxieties
- Increased cooperation & adherence
- Increased trust
- Increased locus of control and decision-making ability



Levels of participation



Non-participation



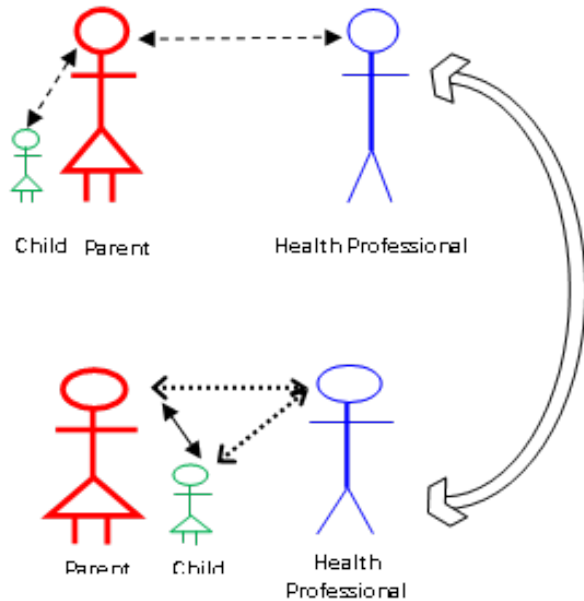
No, they only talked with my mum (Child, 9 yrs)

I don't really get to speak...they don't really ask me questions (Child, 13 yrs)

I don't tell them much because I don't think kids should be subjected to it. (Doctor)

We are here to protect them and to give them the best possible care (Parent)

Partial participation

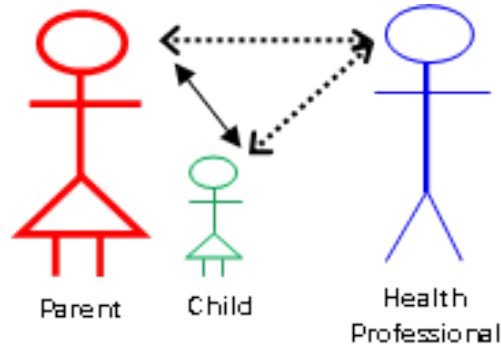


If I'm not feeling great or if I am tired...I don't feel like asking questions then sometimes my mam will ask for me (Child, 9 yrs)

If he (10 yrs) asks me I will explain it to him but he doesn't ask me much (Parent)

When the child keeps asking what's wrong and the parents says, oh don't tell them that (Nurse)

Participation



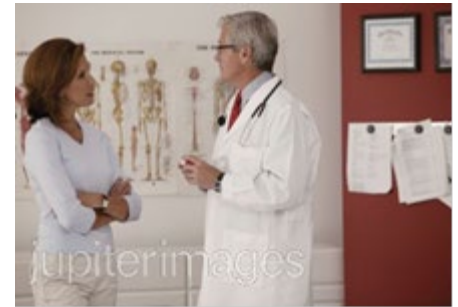
I talk to the nurses they ask me what I want and I feel okay telling them what I want because I know them now (Child 10 years old)

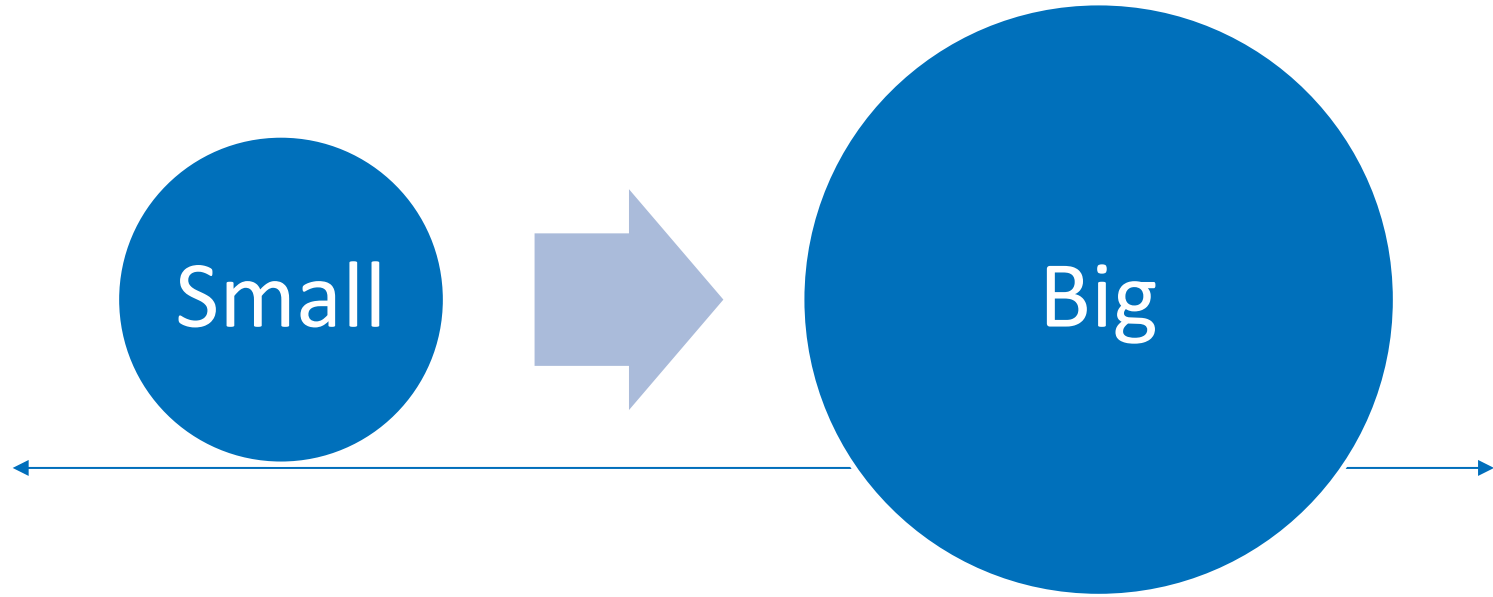
I think they do have a right to be heard and that will always be taken in consideration (Doctor 5)

I would regularly stop a doctor or a nurse if they were talking over his head and get them to explain it to me or to my child (8 yrs) but in an easy way that anyone could understand (Parent 5)

What are the barriers ?

- Lack of time
- Clinicians' communication skills
- Clinicians' approach and interactions
- Child's capacity to understand
- Child's age & health status
- Parents/carers beliefs and behaviour

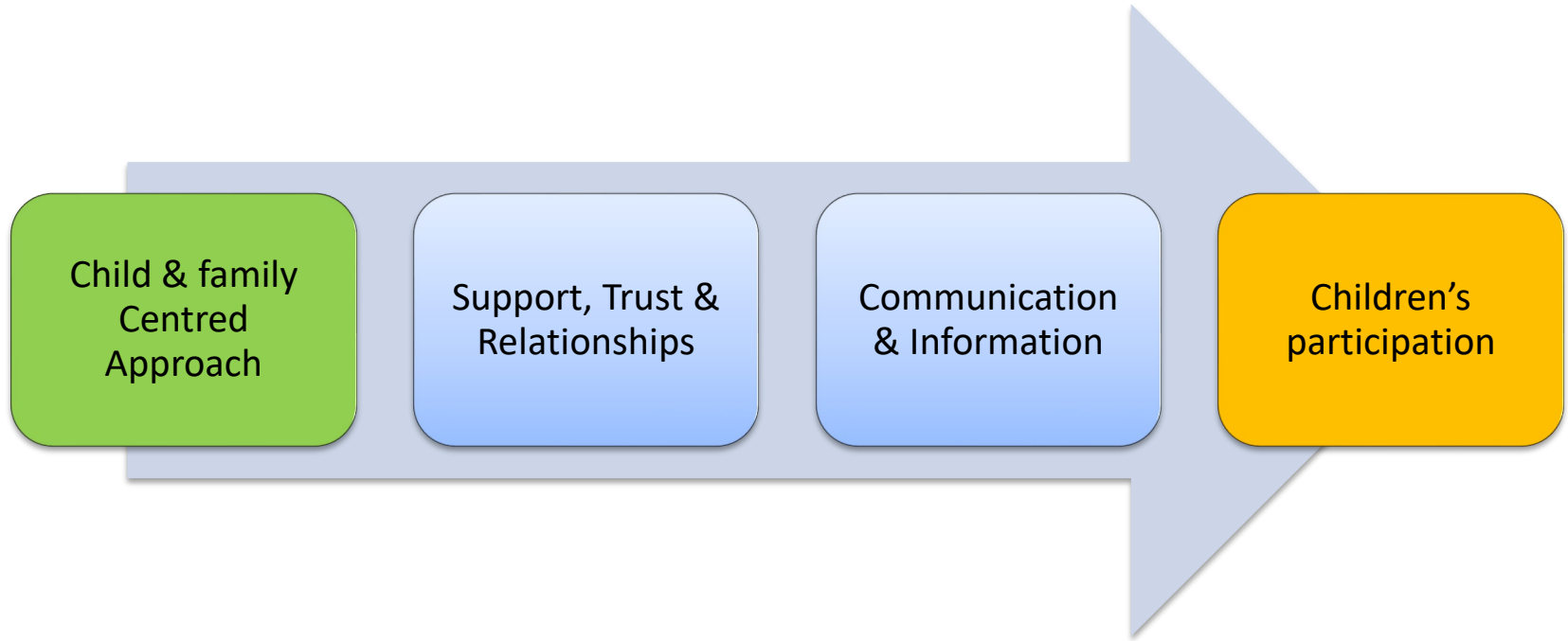




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Summary

Promote the right to participate = Make respect for children's views a core value of your healthcare system.

Create spaces for participation = Children need time, opportunities, support, information, explanations

Elicit preference and values = not all children are the same

Celebrate champions = Highlight and share good practices

Seek feedback = constructive not critical



Thank you all for listening

Merci à toutes et à tous pour votre attention

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Madame Marzenka Krejcirik, *Experte en droits de l'enfant et en protection de l'enfance*

Monsieur Mike Schwebag, *Médiateur de la Santé*

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