



Participation



Interaction

## DISAMBIGUATION

During the first transnational meeting in Copenhagen discussions revealed that terms and definitions of „participation“ and „interaction“ are viewed and interpreted differently relating to the project's target groups, in national projects and in ECE.

So a clarification of terms and content relations seemed to be necessary. The following presentation gives an overview of definitions and a common approach to implement participation in the national projects and ECE.



*Strengthening Activity-Oriented Interaction and  
Growth in the  
E A rly Years and TransitionS*

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# Participation



## General classification:

- P. is a human right and can be understood as a democratic principle. (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, Article 12.1)
- In the context of early education:
  - It is a key notion in education that refers to different educational subjects and themes; key notion in the quality debate in the sense that participation is a prerequisite for personal education and development
  - It is a key notion in democracy or democratic education; therefore it is a higher goal in education.
- Participation must be a means of practice and pedagogical processes

# Participation



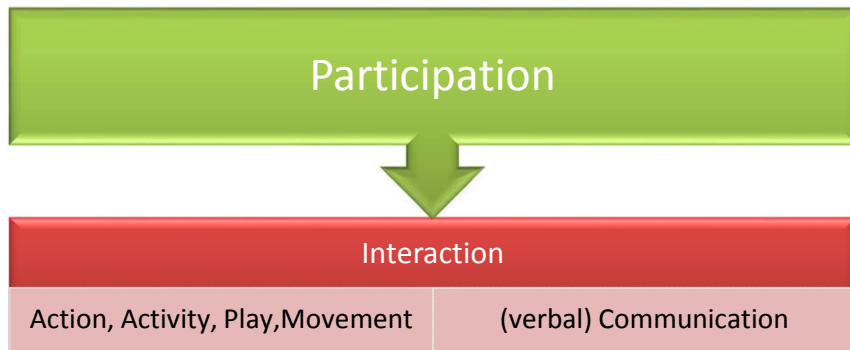
## Participants:

- Participation also means to share and to give off power.
- In the SIGNALS project participation is referred to with respect to the three groups: child/children; parents and professionals (staff).
- It is the responsibility of the professionals to enable and moderate processes of participation.

**Definition:** Participare = Latin for participating, sharing.

- In a scientific and professional understanding participation does not simply mean “taking part” in a process or an act. Participation means more in the sense of deciding along with others; so participation refers to the power of each person to have influence on decisions. The characteristic feature of participation is playing an active part in personally and socially important decisions and sharing to find solutions for common problems and affordances (Schröder, 1995).

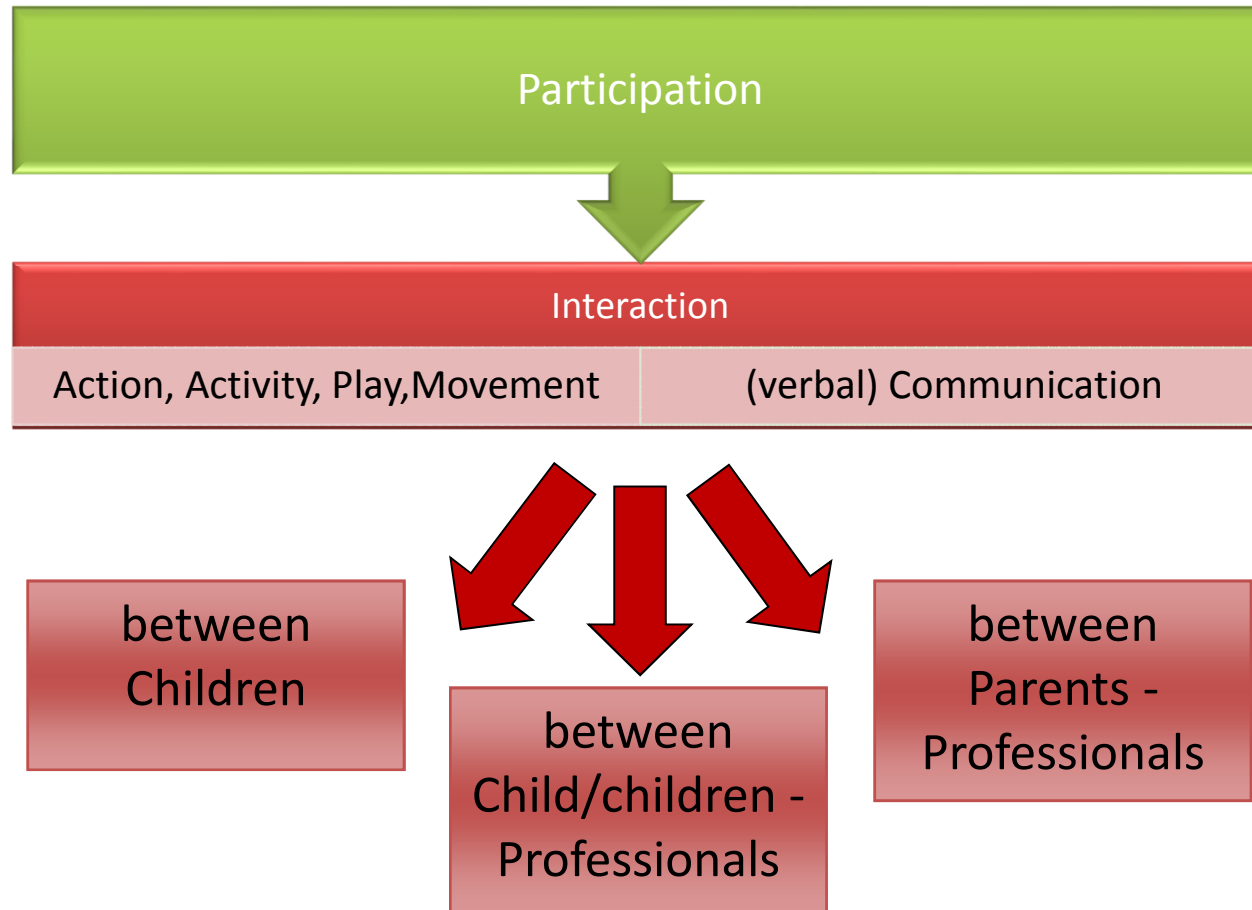
# Interaction



## INTERACTION as a means of participation

- Participation is a principle of pedagogical acting
- Interaction is the medium to insure participation. Interaction can be understood as common **movement activity or play** on the one hand and **verbal communication** on the other

# Partnerships of Interaction



# Pathways of Participation

## Processes of preparation

- Approaching the project of participation:  
The partners have to exchange their ideas of participation, express their hopes and fears. It is important to reflect on the experiences with the new challenge and to develop a personal understanding and attitude towards participation.
- Clearing up the possibilities  
The professionals/the partners have made up their minds: What should children/parents decide on? On What not? This will lead to an intensive discussion.
- Method of realization  
Participation needs methodology. The professionals need to know: How do I argue, lead a dialogue? How do I organize voting? What planning methods do exist?
- Ressources (time, staff ...)

# Pathways of Participation

## Processes of preparation

- Development of democratic procedures and structures

## Informing children and parents

- About possibilities of participation, procedures, ways of decisions, rights etc.
- Projects, processes of participation and decisions
- Supporting opinion-forming of children and parents: What do children and parents need and want?
- Informing about processes of participation



# Pathways of Participation

## Process of realization

- Listening and paying attention to parents and children
  - Children and parents chose relevant subjects
  - Listening and paying attention to children and parents
  - Children and parents are supported in expressing their views:
    - development of an awareness for body expression, gestures etc. as means of expression.
- Participating Children`s and parent`s views are taken into account
  - Children and parents are involved in decision-making processes
  - Children and parents share power and responsibility for decision-making
- self-determination

## Documentation, reflections on expanding participation between all participants

# Discussion