

What is it like for me to take part in U.K Youth Parliament?

My research report by Alice Clancy

My Aim

To find out what it is like to take part in the UKYP. I wanted to find this out so that people can understand better what changes can be made to UKYP to enable all young people to take part, including those who have disabilities.

What I did

I used an ethnographic research method. Ethnography is a way of being part of the action and experiencing something for real and then thinking about this and working things out.

I attended some UKYP meetings with my supporter, Linda.

I videoed the meetings to help me to remember things. I watched what it was like and did a video record of what I saw, what I heard and what I felt.

After each meeting I did a video diary with Linda, using my recorded notes to talk more about what it was like.

I collected lots of data from all the meetings and made lots of video diaries and I sorted it out to see what it would tell me.

From the things I found out I have made some suggestions of how to make UKYP better for young people with a learning disability to take part.



What I found out



UK youth parliament National sitting

I went to the national sitting to find out what it would be like for me to take part in.

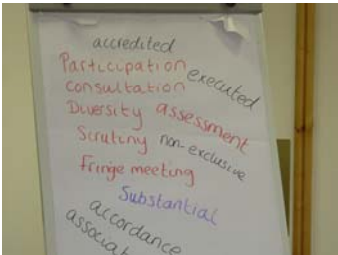
The national sitting started on a Friday and finished on a Monday. I went from Thursday until Sunday.

At the national sitting I took part in fringe meetings, regional meetings and workshops and also the plenary sessions. I took part in some of these meetings and I observed in others.

I recorded how I found things by doing a video diary.

Here are the things I found difficult:

- big words
- special words (Jargon)
- long sentences/statements
- people talking fast
- people talking very loud
- too much to read and write
- big groups when doing a workshop
- too busy and too much to do



This made me feel:

- Bored
- Tired
- Cross
- I couldn't speak up
- I couldn't take part

I found it easy to take part when:

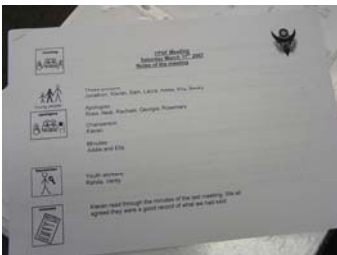
- I could easily understand what was going on
- people helped me
- when there was lots of games and it was fun
- when I wasn't rushed
- when there was enough breaks



This made me feel:

- Excited
- Happy
- Good
- Interested
- Able to take part fully

How to make things better for me:



- Use words that are easy to understand
- Not have things too noisy
- Speak slowly
- Listen to me
- Use short statements
- Have more activities
- Use pictures and symbols to support words
- Have little to read and write
- Have small group work
- Have a support worker
- Put less on the agenda (don't try to do so too much)
- Have more breaks



Regional meeting

I went to a regional meeting (southwest) in Taunton to see what it was like and how easy I thought it would be for me to take part in.

Here are the things I found difficult:

- People shouted out
- More than one person spoke at a time



- To start with it was one big group
- The written work had too many words and too many big words
- I enjoyed the meeting and was able to take part in some of it especially when we worked in small groups. I felt ok, understood most of it and happy when I could take part

To make it better for me

- Less noise
- Small groups
- 1 more break
- Little written work
- Pictures and symbols to support words

Local meeting

I went to a local meeting in Devon to see that that would be like for me to take part in.

I was able to take part fully in this meeting because there were less people (6) and there was small group work, there were plenty of breaks, there wasn't *too* much to do and everyone was friendly and helpful.

I felt happy, excited and interested because I was able to take part all the time.

The written work was ok, some was very good, which was the minutes and agenda from Devon. Other information was not easy to understand.

General feedback

Things are hard for me when there is too much paper work, people talk over each other, and when there are big groups.

I find it easier to take part when the group is small, there is big writing with pictures, and it is not too noisy.



My top tips (So I can take part in things)



- Have small groups whenever possible
- Have less noise/one person speaks at a time
- Use easy words (no jargon)
- Use pictures and symbols
- Have agenda and minutes and information easy to understand and read
- Tell me what the meeting is about and what will be covered
- Have plenty of breaks
- Don't have too much to do/not too long a meeting
- Don't have too many different subjects
- Don't have too much writing /reading and to have a support worker available
- Be friendly and helpful
- Have fun and games/activities
- Listen
- Give time to think
- Give enough time for me to have a chance to speak



Support I need:

- Help with reading and writing
- Time to go through things
- Someone to speak up for me sometimes
- Someone to explain things
- Support person to give me confidence