

#### International week — UCLL

# The Voice of Kids Mie-ke Vanbergen







#### **CHECK-IN**

#### In their shoes

Imagine you are 10 years old and experiencing your parents' divorce

- What would you feel?
- What would you need?
- Who would you want to talk to?

Pair Sharing: reflect & what surprised you in what the other person said?

Group reflection: what does this teach us about a child's voice in a divorce?

#### **RESEARCH & EXPERTISE**

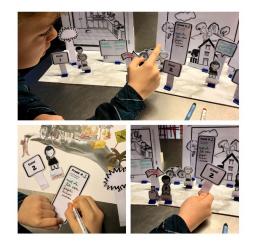
How can we EMPOWER the voice of children and youngsters in divorce and/or parental mediation processes?

- 1. Good practices (Belgium & abroad)
- 2. Conditions and needs for all actors
- 3. What does the mediator needs to maximalise the voice of children?



#### RESEARCH & EXPERTISE

How can we EMPOWER
the voice of children and youngsters
in a divorce and/or parental mediation proces?











# ART BASED PRACTICE











#### SUPPORT PACKAGE

- Pilot in practice with intervision (20 mediators)
- Training module (2526)
  - (How to) Speaking with children
- Interactive inspiration day
  - Good practices
  - Output (tools)
  - Future tables
  - Manifest
- Sensibilisation of children and young people about their rights (tools)

# **TOOLS**



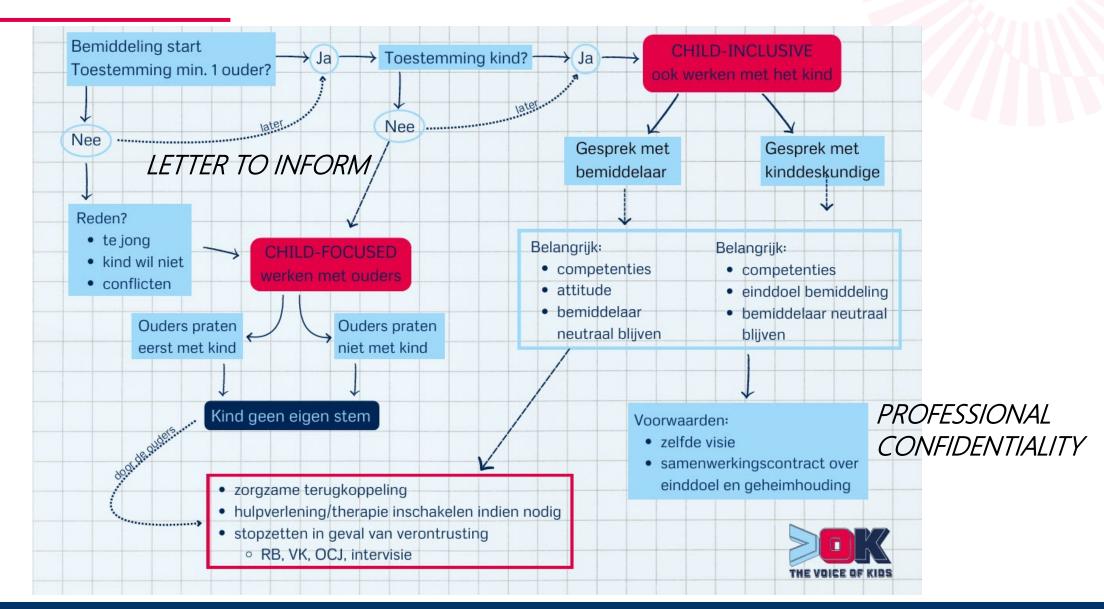
PROTOCOL





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## CHILD-FOCUSED ~ CHILD INCLUSIVE



# POTENTIAL PROBLEMS CHILD & DIVORCE

- Loyalty conflicts
- Unmet emotional needs
- Parental protection and triangulation
- Los of control
- Distorted reality and misunderstanding
- Weakened parent-child relationships
- Difficulties in future relationships



- BASED on Convention
   on the Rights of the Child
- Background / input legal (justice) & psychological
- Think tanks
- Co-creation & feedback:
  - √ Children
  - √ Youngsters
  - ✓ Professionals
- Co-created with students

# 10 aanbevelingen

Blijf kind



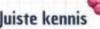
Je mag vertellen wat je voelt of denk maar je hoeft geen problemen op te lossen of keuzes te maken voor je ouders.



Alle kinderen hebben hoorrecht in de bemiddeling van hun ouders. Belangrijk is dat jij je daar goed bij voelt



Je hebt recht op informatie, zo weet je hoe alles werkt. Je kan zelf kiezen of je wil meedoen, wat je zegt, blijft vertrouwelijk en je mag iemand



De bemiddelaar die met jou praat, heeft de juiste kennis, attitude en voardigheden om te spreken met kinderen en jongeren. Ze helpen je om je gedachten en gevoelens te delen.

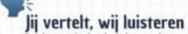


Professionals hebben beroepsgeheim. Dit betekent dat alles wat een kind deelt geheim blijft, tenzij het kind zelf toestemming geeft om dit te delen.



Opleiding

Wie jou helpt, is daarvoor opgeleid. Erkende bemiddelaars moeten zich blijvend bijscholen, onder het wakend oog van de overheid.



Spreken met jou betekent dat we echt naar je luisteren en je de tijd geven om te vertellen wat je denkt en voelt. We zorgen ervoor dat je weet wat er met je woorden gebeurt, zodat jij je gehoord voelt.

#### Extra hulp

kind waarborgen.

In moeilijke gevallen kan extra hulp nodig zijn om jou te beschermen. Soms wordt er geen informatie gedeeld met de ouders om het kind te beschermen. Bij complexe scheidingen kan een onafhankelijke professional het gesprek met het kind voeren. Het doel is altijd de veiligheid en het welzijn van het

#### Voor iedereen

Elk kind heeft recht op informatie en om te vertellen hoe het zich voelt bij een scheiding. Geld mag daarbij geen probleem zijn. Daarom zoeken we naar oplossingen, zoals gratis gesprekken of hulp van de overheid. zodat elk kind een stem krijgt.

#### Hoe jij het wilt

Als je praat over je gedachten en gevoelens, kan dat op verschillende manieren. Jonge kinderen vinden het vaak fijn om te tekenen of te spelen, jongeren kiezen soms graag een andere manier die bij hen past om over hun ervaringen te vertellen.





# Stay child!

You can tell what you feel or think but you don't have to solve problems or make choices for your parents





#### **Your voice matters**

All children are allowed to participate in their parents' mediation if they want to, regardless of their age. It is important that they feel comfortable (with it).

# Your own choice – you choose!

In child-focused mediation, everyone knows from the start how it works.

Children can choose whether they want to participate, what they say remains

confidential, and they can bring someone for support.



# **Correct Knowledge**

The mediator (who speaks with you) has expertise in working with children

and young people. They help you express your thoughts and feelings.



# **Safety**

Professionals are bound by professional confidentiality. This means that everything a child shares remains private unless the child gives permission to disclose it.

#### **Education**



In Belgium, there is a Federal Mediation Commission that acts as a bridge between mediators and the government. It ensures quality in child-inclusive mediation by watching the quality of training, accrediting mediators and promoting continuous professional development.

# You Talk, We Listen

Talking with you means we truly listen and give you the time to share what you think and feel. We make sure you understand what happens with your words so that you feel heard.

# **Extra Support**

In difficult situations, extra support may be needed to protect the child. Sometimes, information is not shared with parents to ensure the child's safety. In conflicts, an independent professional may speak with the child. The goal is always the child's safety and well-being.



# You choose - your Way

Talking about your feelings can happen in different ways. Younger children

may prefer drawing or playing, while older children often feel more

comfortable talking.



# For Everyone?

Every child has the right to express how they feel about a divorce. Money should not be a barrier. That's why solutions like free sessions or government support can be provided, ensuring every child has a voice.



#### TIME2REFLECT

Divide into small groups and reflect on the following questions:

- What is your perspective on the voice of children and teens in mediation during divorce? How far has your country progressed in this area?
- What do you think of the recommendations? Would they be usable in your country? Are you aware of good practices in your country?
- Do you have any tips or suggestions to complement our research from the perspective of your culture or country?

# **CHECK-OUT**



Feedback about the theme in one sentence

