



Who are we?

We are YoVo, the Neath Port Talbot children in care youth council. We are a group of young people who meet up to improve the lives of children and young people in care, meet other young people and we also have some fun.

We are supported by adults from Neath Port Talbot Council and the Children's Rights Unit who help us to have our voices heard on issues that are important to us, and ensure those decision makers who can make changes, listen to our views.

One of our biggest success stories was working with the Lleisau Bach/Little Voices project at Swansea University. We'd like to tell you all about it.

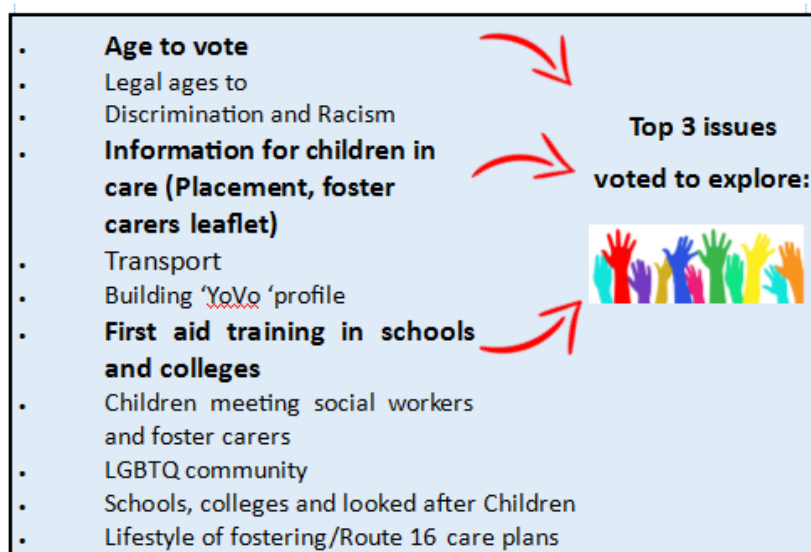
Firstly.....

We took part in workshops learning about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). We learnt about:

- The UNCRC
- What children need?
- Children's Rights in Wales
- Why children's rights are important?

Secondly.....

We as researchers explored our everyday lives; the places we go, the people we meet with; and the things we see and experience. We came up with loads of ideas based around school, our community and the wider world.



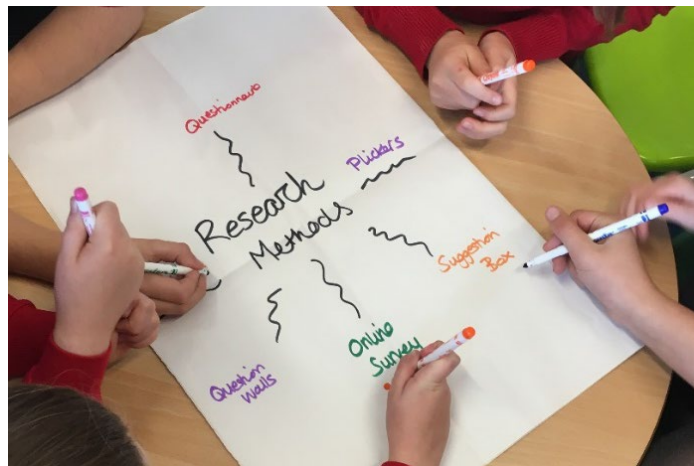
We all voted and chose 'Information for children in care' as our research project.

Thirdly.....

We learned about research methods by taking part in a series of activities that mirrored a variety of research methods such as:

- Question walls
- Paper questionnaires
- Suggestion boxes
- Online surveys
- Plickers

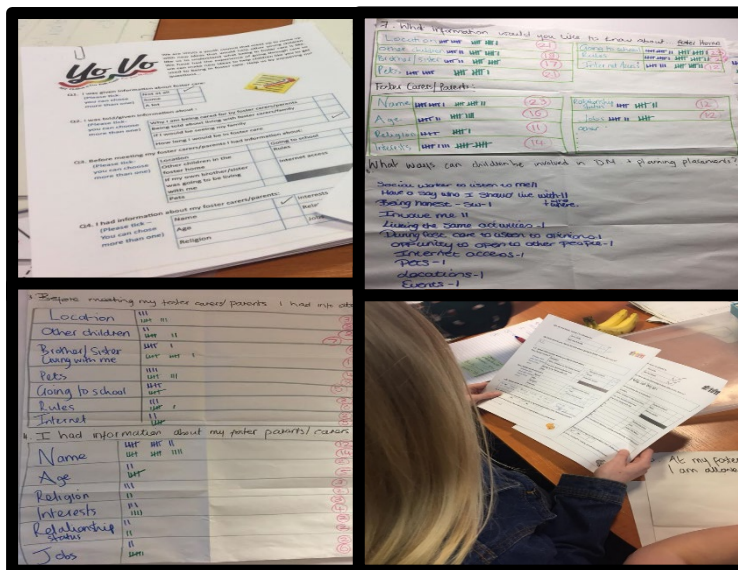
After having first-hand experience of participating in these research methods we decided that an online survey was the best way to collect our data. We looked at problems and solutions with this method and then decided to collect our data in two separate ways: an online survey for children/young people aged 11+, and a paper questionnaire for children aged 7-10.



Next.....

We then developed questions to find out the issues in relation to information, that affect children and young people in care.

After the surveys were sent out and completed, we were presented with the results and we created tally charts and tables to help us analyse the data.



We worked in a whole group about understand the findings and we developed suggestions for actions based on the results (some of them are below).

Results

30% of children were not given any information about foster care

Younger children were given more information

Before meeting foster carers less than 25% of children had information on: siblings living with them; location; where they would go to school

Under half said they were told the foster carers names

Suggestions

All children should have information about foster care in a way they understand

Older children need information too

All children should have the same amount of information

All children should be given basic information as a minimum

Children and young people want to know more information BEFORE they go into foster care. They want information about their foster carers and their foster home

What happened.....

We've been told that:

- Information booklets will be completed by all foster carers and given to children and young people
- Booklets will be updated regularly
- Social Workers will make sure booklets are keep up to date

The End.....

Thank you to Llaisiau Bach/Little Voices for helping us to make a difference to the lives of care experienced children and young people.

