

# What is Having a Say?

Even though children are not adults and cannot vote, Government must still listen to what children think when they are making decisions.

Children should have a say in all areas of their life including:

- Their education and how their school is run
- Their health and the care they get from doctors and hospitals
- The plans made for roads, parks and leisure centres near them.

As children get older and can be more involved in decisions they should be listened to more by parents, carers, professionals and Government.

*An advocate is an independent person who makes sure children understand what is happening and are listened to when big decisions are made about their lives by courts, doctors, social workers and others.*

## Important Fact:

Adults and professionals will still need to make decisions about children so they are well looked after and safe.

