1. **Why do you think that children's participation rights matter?**
2. **How does the inclusion of children's participation in the UNCRC implicate States Parties that have ratified the treaty?**
3. **What do children's participation rights have to do with citizenship and democratic processes that are inclusive and empowering?**
4. I believe that children’s participation rights matter, in fact, I strongly feel that they are imperative, in the decision making process of any activity or practice that involves children. Children of all ages should be able to voice their thoughts and opinions, especially in matters that will affect them. As the article by, Gerison Lansdown points out, often times there seems to be an issues of power between adults and children. When adults are solely making decisions that both directly and non-directly impact children, this reinforces the, often times, predominant power that adults have over children. The consequences are, primarily that, the best interests of the children may not be acted out efficiently, if not at all. If children are to be treated and taken care of in the best way possible, their voices have to not just be listened to, but vigorously heard. Overall giving children a voice, gives them agency.
5. Inclusion of children’s participation in the UNCRC implicate States Parties, have ratified the treaty by, ultimately improving the relationship between children and adults. Children were able to discuss some of their concerns and ideas, from their own perspectives. In other words, as the article notes they added a new dimension to the debate that would have been disregarded or invisible without their direct input. When children’s ideas and thoughts are listened to and heard by adults, their words can then be translated into action. Finally, systems and services can be altered in favour of the children, so that their needs can be met and supported.
6. The article, suggests that children’s participation right’ are strongly related to strengthening, commitment and understanding of democracy. According to, Lansdown children need to learn what their rights and duties are, how their freedom is limited by the rights and freedoms of others and how their actions can affect the rights of others. In other words children should have the right to be made aware of the events or activities they are apart of. They should have a clear understanding of the process, what is it for and what roles they have within it. Lansdown asserts, that they need opportunities to participate in democratic decision-making process within school and within local communities. By experiencing respect for their own views and understanding the importance of having respect for their views, they will then develop the capacity and the willingness to listen to others, at the same time they will begin to learn the value of democracy.