

An example of an Additional Support Needs Tribunal case – where children are asked to share their views

The Children's Views service supports children to pass on their views in formal processes – the service is not instructed by the child but supports children to respond to questions set out to them by tribunal services or educational professionals.

Hannah's My Rights, My Say story

Hannah is 12-years-old and has autism and ADHD. She attends a mainstream school but struggles in the classroom and feels that she is not getting the support she needs. Her parents made a placing request to the ASN Tribunal asking for Hannah to attend an independent school for children with additional support needs. The Tribunal contacted My Rights, My Say because they wanted to find out what Hannah's views were regarding:

- Her current school (what she likes and doesn't like)
- The proposed school (how she would feel about going there)
- What helps Hannah to learn in school
- Anything that Hannah feels could be better in school

How My Rights, My Say helped Hannah:

- Hannah was very anxious about meeting the Children's Views worker and was worried about answering the Tribunal's questions. The Children's Views worker sent a letter to Hannah with a photo of themselves and a social story explaining who would be coming to meet with her and what would happen.
- Hannah agreed to meet at home with the Children's Views worker. The worker brought the questions along and supported Hannah to use smiley face stickers to express her views. They wrote down all the things that Hannah told them and Hannah made a drawing of what her perfect school would look like.

Sharing Hannah's views:

- The Children's Views worker went away and wrote a report with all the things Hannah had told them. They also included Hannah's artwork in the report.
- The Children's Views worker arranged a video call where they went through the report with Hannah so she could make any changes she wanted to.
- When Hannah was happy with the report, the Children's Views worker sent it to the Tribunal.

Outcomes



Hannah's parents attended the Tribunal a few weeks later. The panel members listened to evidence from Hannah's parents and the local authority, and they also considered Hannah's views. The panel decided that Hannah should go to the independent school requested by Hannah's family and they said that Hannah's views had been very important in helping them reach their decision.

