



WWCTU - Children's Department Kit 2021

United Nations
Sustainable Development Goals 14 & 16

CHILD IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL (<https://www.lastenjanuortenkeskus.fi/in-english/>)

Child Impact Assessment is a tool and method developed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church for reviewing decision-making from the perspective of children. Criteria for child impact assessment emerge from both the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ELCF own self-understanding. It is also based on studies which show that children and young people who have the opportunity to influence their own lives are better off than those who do not. Participation increases the joy and vitality of children and the hope for the future. Being seen and heard and being able to influence matters in one's own life support the development and strengthening of a positive and healthy self-image.

When speaking about children we mean children and adolescents.

The goals of the Child Impact Assessment are to:

- Promote the best interests of the child in ecclesiastical decision-making and action
- Strengthen consideration of children's opinions and children's involvement in Church activities
- Raise awareness of the human rights of the child in the Church
- Contribute to the Church's own theological mission and strategic goals

The process also entails a pre-assessment which is carried out before any decisions are made to ensure that the effects of the decisions are known as widely as possible. Decision-makers have the opportunity to compare the pros and cons of different options. At the same time, it is possible to reinforce the positive effects of the decision and to anticipate and mitigate the negative effects.

For example, the following questions can be used for analysis:

- What are the positive or negative effects of different policy options on the overall well-being of children and adolescents (physical, psychological, mental, spiritual)?
- Which option has the most positive impact on the well-being of children?
- Do the options have different effects on different age groups under 18 or different effects on girls and boys?
- What is the impact of different options on, for example, in different minority groups, children living in different congregations or in different economic situations etc?
- Are the interests of some groups of children in conflict?
- How does the decision affect the most vulnerable children?

A Child-friendly parish, checklist:

1. The rights of the child are known
2. The diversity of children are taken into account in decision-making and actions
3. Children have the opportunity to participate in the planning, evaluation and development of activities for them
4. Children can influence the design and development of facilities
5. Children have the opportunity to influence matters that are important to them
6. Children have enough reliable adults
7. Children are safe
8. Children and childhood are valued
9. The best interests of the children are a primary consideration when deciding on activities for children and young people
10. Information on children is widely used in decision-making

Goal of the Children's Department: To promote Christian values and encourage children to make choices that will lead to a drug-free life.

Specific Focus for 2021: Learn to love and save the environment. (Based on U.N.S.D.G.14 & 16)

Bible Verse: Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6).

Training is more than disciplining a child. We should not have any confusion that we need to encourage them to lead a godly life. It is very important to instill good values and good habits from childhood. It is God's command in Deuteronomy 6:7; 11:19.

Actions:

Join the Club.

- Enrol a child.
 - Register a pre-school age (0 - 5 years) for the Little White Ribboner ceremony. Read about it from our web page. Mothers put the white ribbon bow on the child's wrist which is a symbol of purity and (temperance). They make a pledge to raise their children in a godly manner with a drug free life style.
 - When a child turns 6 years they make their own pledge to abstain from tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. They become Drug-free Kids (LTL (Loyal Temperance Legion) members). They are part of the army of God to follow His principles.
- Tell children the stories of the Bible. eg. Daniel and his friends, Samson etc. Include the bad effects of drugs and alcohol (not being able to understand instructions or lessons, headaches etc.) You can relate a story or find web page pictures to colour where the intoxicated character is going different way and has some kind of accident etc.
- Please note down the names of the children and their birth date to encourage them with a birthday card or small gift on their special day.
- Be a good friend - listen and be a comforter to a child.
- Create some events on holidays involving the children in various competitions or games.
- Create discussion groups with questions on how they can protect and save the land, water, electricity, forests, animals, etc.
- Use puppets, videos or acted plays to convey your ideas. Send in the photo of your work - make sure you have permission from parents before sending any photos of children.
- Check out the Drug-free Kids website resources and send us your feedback.
- Use the 2021 activity sheets for the children to do. (Right click on [this link](#) and choose open in a new tab).