



**INTRODUCTION TO THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF
CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL (EACH) CHARTER**
SESSION 1

TARGET AUDIENCE

Healthcare Professionals / Voluntary Sector Workers / Education Providers

AIM

The aim of this training / workshop session is to give an introduction to the European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH) Charter and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the workshop participants will:

- Identify the principle EACH Charter points that relate to teen parents and their babies and how they relate to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Review the implications of the rights of teen parents and their babies
- Give examples of how the rights of young parents, their baby and those of the parents may conflict
- Examine and review the training of staff and training provision into the rights of very young families

ACTIVITIES & RESOURCES

Participants will be issued with a copy of the EACH Charter booklet as produced by Action for Sick Children (Scotland).

The Facilitator will give the history and back-ground to the Charter and an overview of the UNCRC.

Activity

Participants will be split into small groups of 4-6 people (depending upon audience size) and will be asked to discuss one or two charter points and will list the arguments (for or against) as to how it may relate to (a) the mother (b) the father (c) the child and (d) the grandparents.

Findings will be presented to the rest of the class and discussed.

Facilitators Notes

Facilitators may wish to open up the discussions by pointing out that the age of the parents may affect how they perceive or interpret the application of the EACH Charter. This could be done by asking participants to consider the following:

- The mother is 15. The baby has been born with health difficulties that require invasive treatment. Parental consent is required. There are doubts about whether the mother understands the implications of the condition and what the outcomes will be either with or without treatment. The father is 17 and he is opposed to the treatment. He feels doctors should wait until the child is older. Both sets of grandparents feel that treatment should be commenced immediately.
- Both parents want to stay with their baby overnight but are told that there is no room
- In relation to consent, would it matter if both parents were 14 or 18? Does the age matter?
- What are the principle issues in this scenario and which EACH Charter and UNCRC points apply? (EACH Article 2, 3, 4, 5 and UNCRC Articles 5,9, 17 and 18). Also consider if Article 10 means that the grandparents should not have been part of the consultation / discussion process in the first place (confidentiality). The Facilitator may also wish the group to consider issues of “Mental Capacity.”