

You Said, We Did – A Gentle Guide for Primary Schools

International Day of Education – Free Resource for AMHIE Members

Who this guide is for:

Teachers, teaching assistants, and school leaders who want to explore ways of listening to children and showing that their ideas matter.

What this guide can support you to do:

- Explore simple ways to show children their voices are heard
- Encourage children to share ideas safely and confidently
- Support small changes that can improve classroom or playground life
- Reflect on how participation makes children feel included and valued

| The focus is on small, achievable actions, not big projects.

How you might approach this (around 30 minutes)

Step 1: Notice a theme from children's ideas (10 minutes)

- Ask yourself: "What have children mentioned recently?"
- Examples: "We want more books in the reading corner," "The playground is too noisy," "We're not sure who can help if we feel upset"



Step 2: Explore what could change (5 minutes)

- Consider what is possible and what might take longer
- Even tiny changes can make a big difference



Step 3: Complete a "You Said, We Did" note (10 minutes)

You Said : "The reading corner is too small."

We Did : "We moved some cushions and added two new bookshelves."

Next Steps : "We will ask children next week what they think of the new setup."



Step 4: Share the message visibly (5 minutes)

- Display on a classroom wall or timetable board
- Read out in circle time or assembly
- Consider creating a simple illustrated version for younger children



Some things to consider when designing your note



Use friendly language and relevant pictures



Celebrate even small improvements and invite children to reflect on what changed



Focus on themes, not individual children's stories

