

The Children Have Their Say

The subjective wellbeing of children in Barcelona

→ Presentation



July 2018

#ParlenNensiNenes | #BenestarInfancia | #AgendaInfants

institut
infància i
adolescència

Ajuntament de Barcelona
Diputació de Barcelona
Universitat de Barcelona
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona





Municipal programme attached to:
Social Rights Area of Barcelona City Council



Produced by:
Barcelona Institute of Childhood and Adolescence (public consortium)



With the collaboration of:
Barcelona Education Consortium



With the guidance of:
Institute of Research on Quality of Life (University of Girona)



With thanks for the use of material on children's rights to:
Unicef Catalonia Committee



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key points of *The Children Have Their Say*



1. Focus on rights and action principles
2. Circular programme: 3 phases for 3 goals
3. More than a survey: a knowledge tool that is periodical, robust and with broad social scope
4. Comprehensive view of childhood with a specific look at those who express less wellbeing
5. More than feedback: interpreting results with the children and taking notice of their proposals for improvement
6. More than proposals: an own agenda and opening of dialogues

1. Focus on rights...



- THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, ratified by Spain in 1989, obliges the public authorities to progressively implement the rights of children



The **programme** **“The Children Have Their Say”** materialises the obligation of the public authorities to make effective **the right of children to be heard and for their opinions to be taken into account.**

...and action principles



- The starting point is the recognition of the perspectives and capabilities of children as:
 1. **KEY INFORMANTS**: survey
 2. **RESEARCHERS**: interpretation of the results
 3. **SIGNIFICANT CITIZENS**: construction of the agenda of proposals and dialogues with adults



“Children of Barcelona Have Their Say” is a programme for knowledge about the wellbeing of children in the city from their **point of view** and with them taking a **leading role**.

2. Circular programme: 3 phases x 3 goals



PHASE 1 (2016-2017 academic year)

Goal: CHECK CHILDREN'S WELLBEING (SURVEY)



PHASE 2 (2017-2018 academic year)

Goal: INTERPRET - PROPOSE (PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOPS)



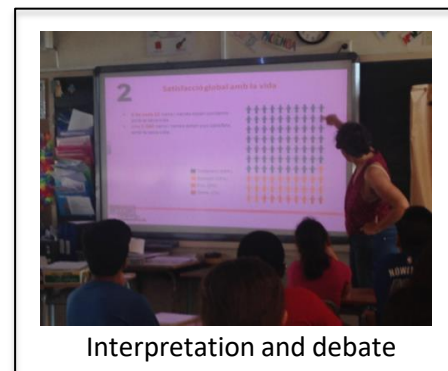
PHASE 3 (two academic years: 2018-2020)
Goal: PRESENT and OPEN DIALOGUES (CHILDREN'S AGENDA, SPOKESKIDS GROUP)



Survey



Proposals and dialogues (Agenda)



Interpretation and debate

3. More than a survey: a knowledge tool that is periodical, robust and with broad social scope



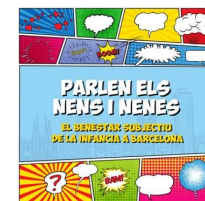
- **4,000 children** from the 5th and 6th years of primary education (15% of children aged between 10 and 12 years old in the city) from 52 schools across the 10 districts of Barcelona, answered an internationally validated children's survey ([Children's Worlds](#)) to report to adults on how they feel about different aspects of their lives.
- It is hoped to repeat the survey every four years (new edition in the year 2021) and convert it into a **periodic tool for subjective data collection** to complement the objective data on children's living conditions.

→ CHILDREN RESPONDING IN THE FIRST PERSON



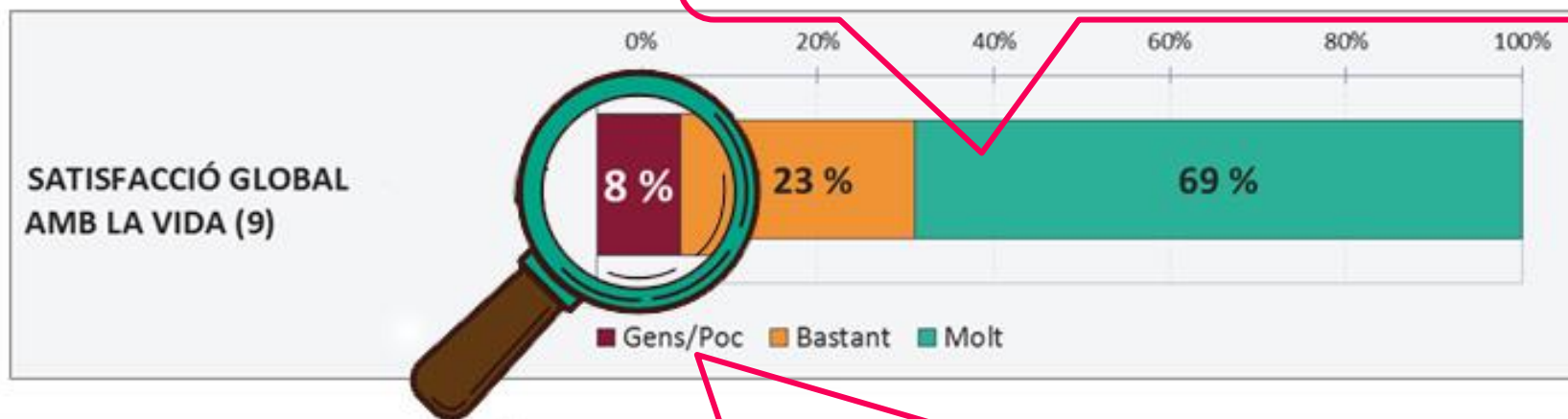
"It has been a curious experience because it is not every day that you do a survey or that people who are doing an important project ask you about yourself: it made me feel important"
(girl, 11 years)

4. Comprehensive overview of childhood with a specific focus on those expressing less wellbeing



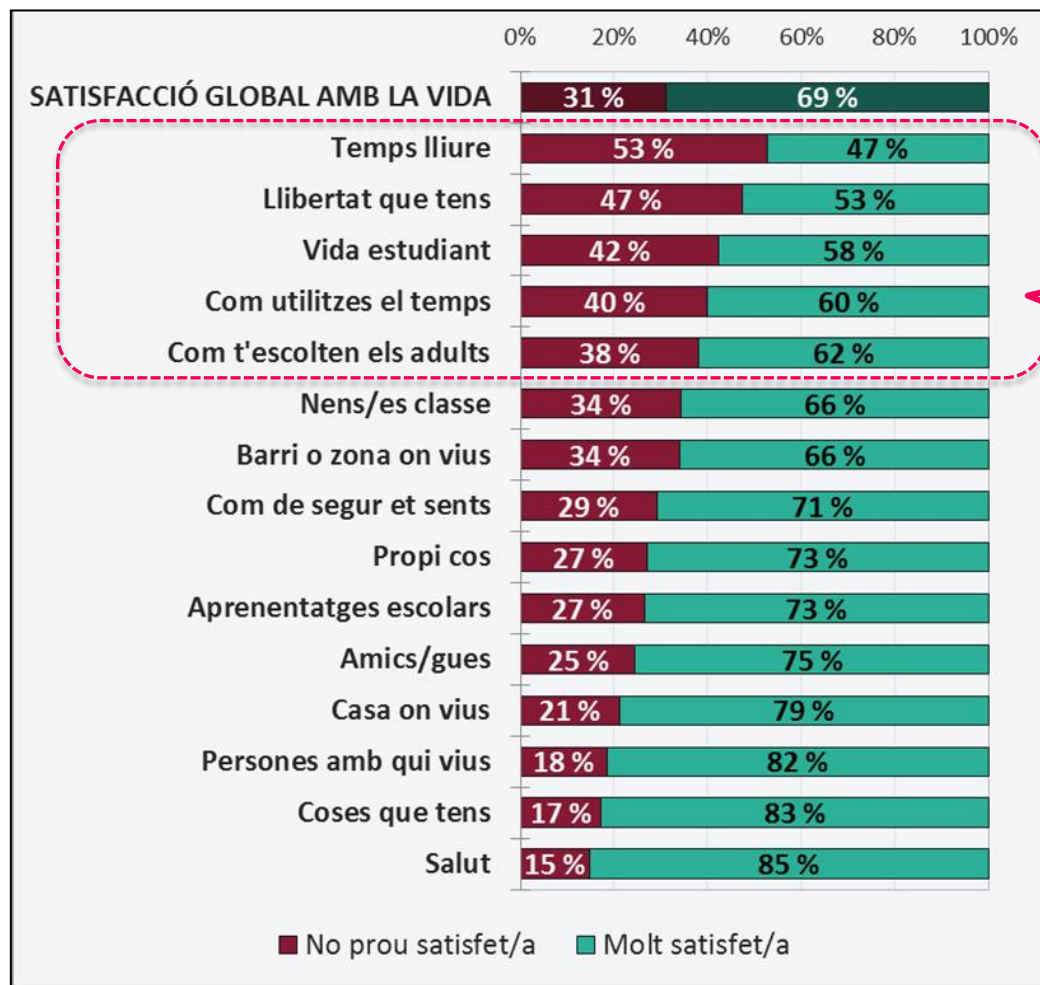
- The wellbeing is studied of **all children** (10 to 12 years - representative sample), but without renouncing a **specific look at children who express less wellbeing**: how many are there? What are their characteristics?

69% of children in the city said they were totally satisfied with their life overall, while the other 31% stated they were not sufficiently so.



Of the set of children surveyed, some 8% state that they are not very or not at all satisfied with their lives.

- The survey explores wellbeing in **all areas of children's lives**, taking into account not only **material** but also **relationship-related** living conditions.



The children of Barcelona **want more time** for themselves and **to gain personal autonomy**. They are **not very satisfied with their student lives** and want adults **to listen to them more**.

Why? What can we do to help you feel better?

5. More than feedback: interpreting the results with the children...



PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOPS

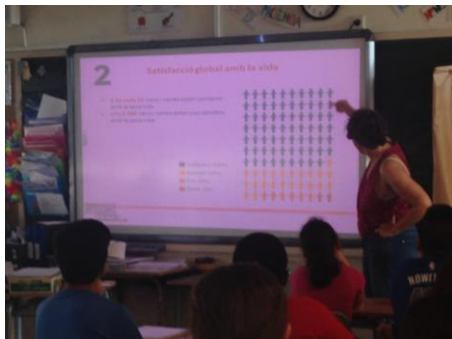
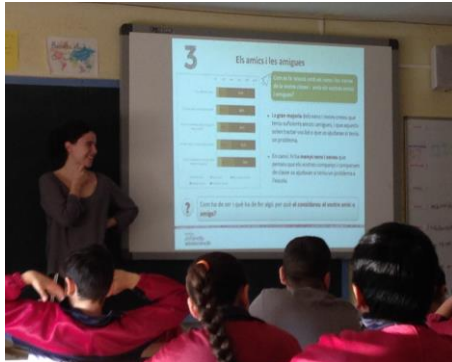
2,000 primary 6th year and secondary 1st year children from 43 schools took part in 84 workshops on the feedback from the survey results, helping us to interpret them and formulating 5,000 proposals for improving their wellbeing.

→ CHILDREN WHO RESEARCH AND PROPOSE IMPROVEMENTS




"I really liked the fact that they asked us, because we are children and adults don't normally ask our opinion so much. I hope this project has a positive result and that the children are better heard" (boy, 12 years)

For example...



RESULTS: 4 out of every 10 children aged 10 to 12 years in Barcelona said you are not satisfied enough with your life as a student

INTERPRETATION:  **Why** do you think there are children not very satisfied with their life as a student?



"Al cole hi estem 8 hores i es gasta molt temps i després, a sobre, et posen deures. No hi ha prou temps al cole?" (Tiago, l'Eixample)



"Hi ha pares que volen el millor per als seus fills i els apunten a moltes coses i quan arriben són les 8 del vespre i és dutxar-se, sopar i anar a dormir" (Jordi, Sant Martí)



"Amb tots els deures, els nens quasi no tenim temps de jugar" (Pau, Nou Barris)



"Si fas una extraescolar que t'agrada molt és com temps lliure, perquè quan la fas t'ho passes bé" (Laia, Sant Andreu)



"Les extraescolars em treuen molt de temps, m'agradaria sortir i estar amb els amics" (Carla, Sarrià-Sant Gervasi)

....and collecting their proposals for improvement



- **Improving wellbeing concerns everyone**, for that reason the children's proposals address the City Council and other authorities, schools, families and things they can do themselves to improve their wellbeing



→ 9 proposals for less time spent studying and more free time to spend with friends



L'AJUNTAMENT

- 8. Canviar els horaris escolars: sortir abans de l'escola, limitar l'horari extraescolar, garantir les hores de son necessàries.
- 9. Augmentar els dies festius amb més vacances i més dies de festa a la setmana.

LES ESCOLES

- 10. Deixar-nos sortir més d'hora de l'escola, posar-nos menys deures i menys exàmens per tenir més temps lliure.
- 11. Evitar posar-nos feines d'un dia per l'altre, deixar-nos temps a classe per fer els deures i distribuir els exàmens perquè no coincideixin en una mateixa setmana.
- 12. Ampliar el temps de pati, amb més moments de descans i més temps per dinar.

LES FAMÍLIES

- 13. Deixar-nos més llibertat per quedar amb els amics i amigues fora de l'escola.
- 14. Ajudar-nos a organitzar millor el temps: que ens mirin l'agenda, que ens ajudin a planificar els horaris d'estudi, que ens ajudin a fer els deures si ens costen perquè així acabem abans i tinguem més temps per jugar.

ELS INFANTS

- 15. Organitzar-nos millor el temps: no deixar els deures per a l'últim moment, anar a dormir d'hora, aprofitar el temps a classe.
- 16. Dedicar més temps a jugar a casa, amb els amics i al carrer.

6. More than proposals: their own agenda...

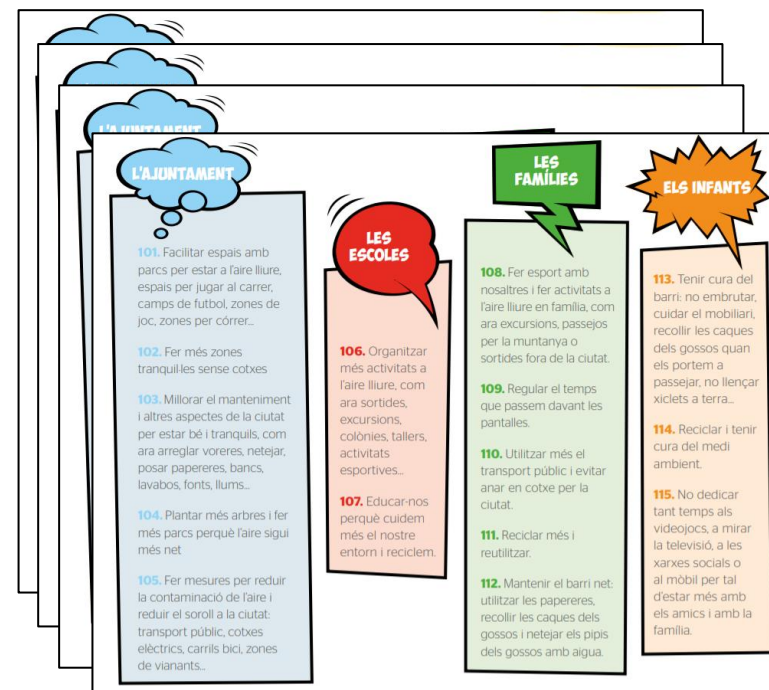


- The 5,000 proposals collected from the workshops are summarised into 11 demands and 115 proposals for action based on three criteria: reiteration, territorial scope and potential for impact of the proposals on children's wellbeing.

11 DEMANDS



115 ACTION PROPOSALS



...and open up dialogues with adults



1st Meeting of the Spokeskids Group, on 19 June in Barcelona

THE SPOKESKIDS GROUP is made up of some thirty boys and girls aged between 11 and 13 years from all districts in Barcelona who have participated in the programme “The Children Have Their Say”.

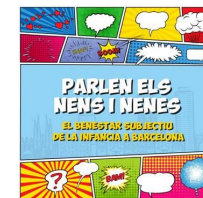
As active citizens, with their own needs and growing capabilities, the boys and girls from the Spokeskids Group have been entrusted by Barcelona City Council to **make known, campaign and open dialogues about the Children’s Agenda** with city political heads, municipal services, and social agents.



The Children’s Agenda in 3’45”

Preparing to present the agenda

We hold working sessions so that the children feel comfortable and prepared to present the Agenda and open up dialogues with adults



- **POSTER:** working session in which a poster is produced for each of the Agenda's demands



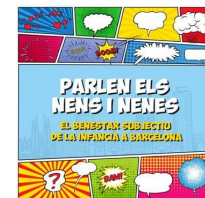
- **PHOTOGRAPHY:** working session in which demands are expressed through a photograph



- **BOXES:** working session in which demands are expressed through a decorated box



→ SIGNIFICANT CITIZENS!!



"I feel that they paid attention to me and I liked that" (girl, 12 years)

"[the proposals] could produce a reaction and I believe there will be changes in the city"
(boy, 12 years)

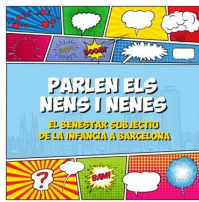




+ Programme info

barcelona.cat/infancia

institutinfancia.cat/parlenelsnensinenes



→ SURVEY

[Report on initial data from the Survey on Subjective Welfare of Children in Barcelona](#)

[Questionnaire in Catalan](#)

[Questionnaire in Spanish](#)

→ PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOPS

[Educational guide for classroom work with the initial results from the survey](#)

[Presentations on the various workshops](#) (links at the end)

→ CHILDREN'S AGENDA

[Children's Agenda \(in PDF\)](#)

[Children's Agenda \(Video\)](#)

[Presentation of the Children's Agenda \(8 June 2018\)](#)



Echoes in the media



→ PRESENTATION OF THE CHILDREN'S AGENDA

[Round-up of media appearances of the presentation of the Agenda](#) (June 2018)

→ PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOPS

[Round-up of media appearances of the feedback and participatory workshops phase](#) (February 2018)

→ PRESENTATION OF THE INITIAL RESULTS

[Round-up of media appearances of the initial results of the survey](#) (November 2017)

→ SURVEY

[Round-up of media appearances of the survey process](#) (May 2017)



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