

What Politicians can do: Ideas from Childline and our Network.

Ensure children feature in your party's election manifesto

- Know where children fit?
- Don't see children as potential party members but as citizens in their own right about whom every politician should have concern

Ensure children feature in your election promises and commitments

- Think about the children in your constituency space (Children on the dumps)
- Examine the child friendly facilities in your constituency and ensure that they are safe (parks)
- Champion the children in your party by encouraging fellow candidates and politicians to "think children" and monitor their well being and access to services

Energise others in your party to think children – conscientize them

Ensure that you follow through if you are elected – we are a country of broken promises to our children.

Ensure provision -

- examine your municipality's development plan – do children feature? If not why and how can you put them on this map.

- Examine your municipal/metro budget – make sure that children feature – and that provision is adequate and properly spent. **Investment – if children are the future – why don't we invest time and money?**

Oversight – ensure that services are actually working and identify the obstacles to service provision. Monitor whether people are doing their jobs – and ensure that you are actually out there in your community listening and looking. We have great legislation – not perfect but certainly good. However there is an enormous gap in implementation. **(recent children's court cases, eastern cape schools)**

Encourage children to talk to you about their lives and listen to what they have to say.

- they are likely to be your future electorate
- they are experts on their own lives
- they are able to give feedback on what is working and what is not in the way of services to children
- think of developing a children's council in your constituency and ensure that it is representative.

Protect children from exploitation – in every sense. Children should be educated about politics and civil rights but schools should not be used as points of lobbying and persuasion.

Ensure that adults take responsibility – children have a childhood for the purpose of protection and learning – I am concerned about the fact that we have a Bill of

Responsibilities for children promoted through our schools –
but no Bill of Responsibilities for the adults in their lives.

(Schools in the Eastern Cape)

Try to move towards equitable service provision – if you are a child in SA and abused – pray that it is in Gauteng or western cape – not Limpopo, not in the northern regions of KZN or Eastern Cape