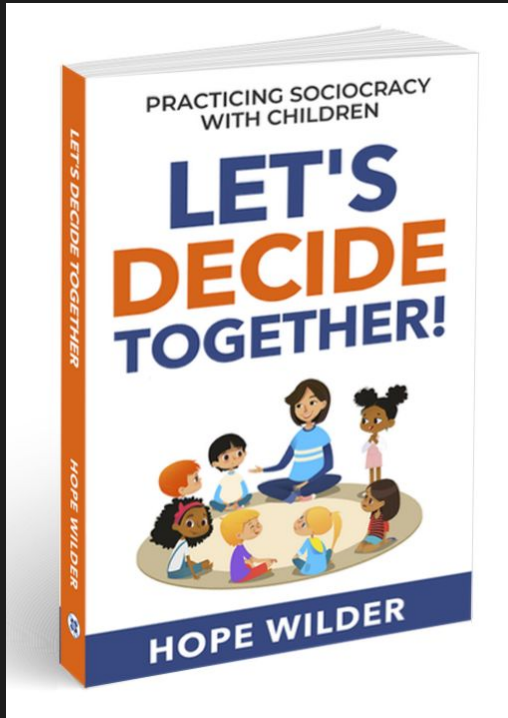


# Let's Decide Together Book Launch: Check in (Chat)

- What is your location?
- What brings you to this book launch?
- What are you most curious about?

Post in the chat





# Let's Decide Together! Launch Party



Hope Wilder- Sociocracy for All

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# Today's agenda

- Check in
- Overview of book & mini-presentation
- Workshop
- Q&A
- Check out



# About Me

Founder of Pathfinder Community School  
(closed)

Sociocracy and Schools Program Manager  
at Sociocracy for All

Consultant and trainer for using  
sociocracy with children

Live in Durham, NC, USA

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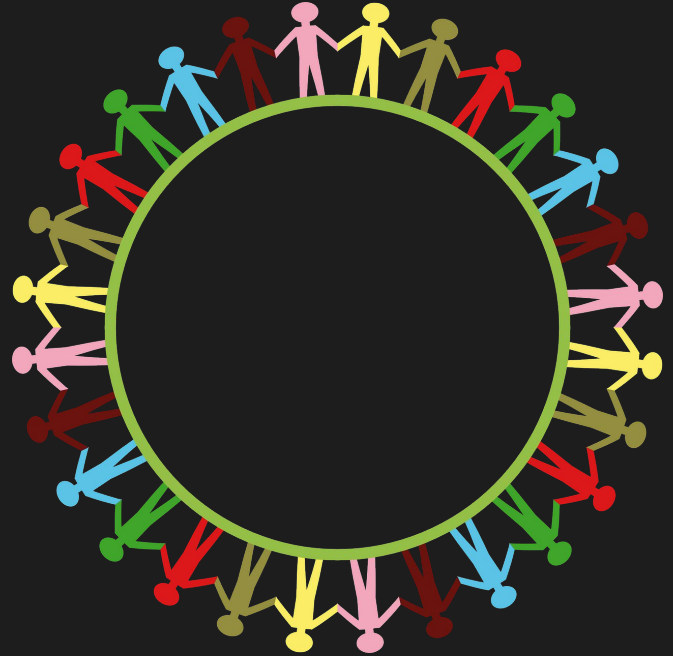
# Why sociocracy with children?

What I've seen:

- Confidence
- Empowerment and agency
- Conflict into curiosity

Larger context:

- Children's rights
- To build a better future



**What outcomes do I expect?**

From arguing about chores, noise →

**Problem-solving together**



# What outcomes do I expect?

Top-down decisions →

Bottom up decisions, **empowering children**



# What outcomes do I expect?

Authoritarian structures →

**Egalitarian structures**

*End result:*

- *More harmonious, authentic relationships between adults and children.*

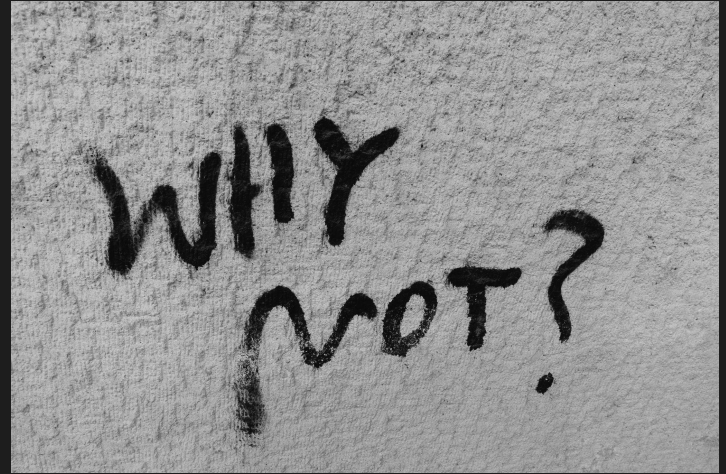


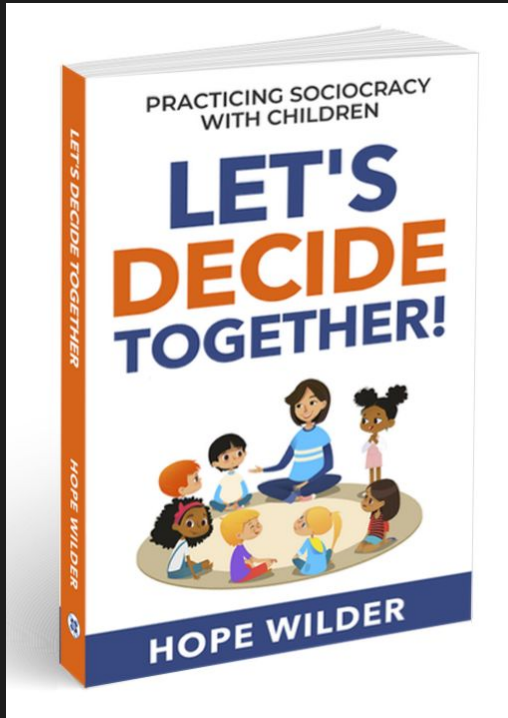
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# Why did I write the book?

- It's the book I wish I had when I started Pathfinder!
- To spread these ideas more widely and empower children everywhere
- Also, because Ted asked me to :)





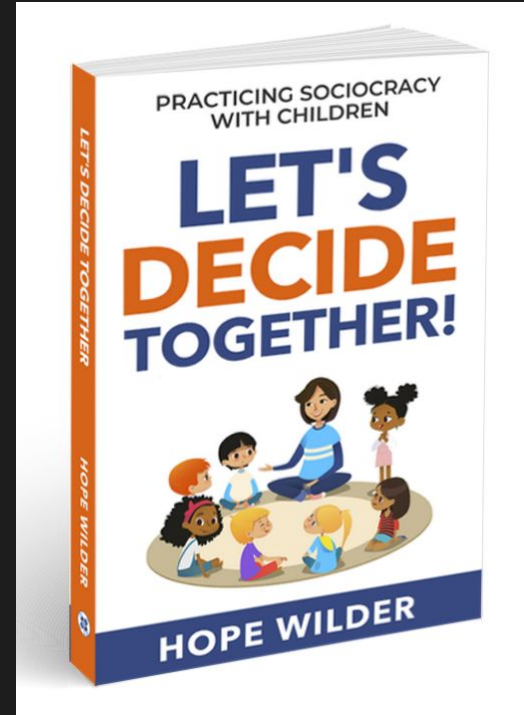
# Book Content

...

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# About the book

- Introduction to practicing collaborative decision-making via sociocracy with children
- Practical workbook, 8.5”x 11”
- For families, in schools, aftercare, everywhere!
- Chock full of stories and real-life examples!



# Inside the book

## Tools to practice sociocracy with children

- What to decide about together
- Tips and tricks for successful meetings with children
- 7 meeting agendas
- 3 cheat sheets
- 5 worksheets
- Additional resources online (printable PDFs, video, addendum)



# Inside the book

## Meeting 1 agenda: Rounds and agreements

### 1. Announce the meeting time

The meeting will be \_\_\_\_ minutes. (Set the timer.)

### 2. Read introduction

Sociocracy is a set of tools to help us decide together. In this circle, you get to decide how to [your domain].

Rounds are a way of talking so that everyone is heard. This practice comes from communities of native people all around the world. People take turns holding the talking object. When you have the object, it is your turn to speak. When someone else has the object, it is your turn to listen.

### 3. Check-in round

How are you doing today?

### 4. Fun question round

Let's practice talking in a circle by taking turns answering a fun question. (Choose one below or make up your own.)

- What did you have for breakfast?
- What superpower would you like to have?
- If you could turn into one animal, what would it be?

### 5. Agreements round

How do you want to be treated in this group? Let's make a list. (Write on a poster during the round.)

### 6. Check for consent

Does this list of agreements look complete?

- **thumbs up** for "I like it"
- **thumbs sideways** for "I'm OK with it" or "I don't have strong feelings about it"
- **thumbs down** for "objection" or "I see a problem"

### 7. Sign Agreements

### 8. Closing Round

How did today's meeting go?



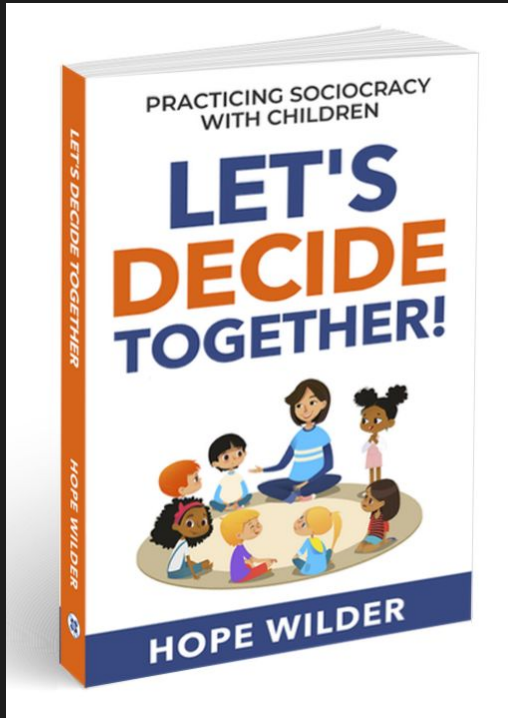
# Kid Approved

*“I like that everybody gets to agree, not just some people.”*

*Kira Gillespie, age 8*



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# Sociocracy with Children: Intro and Context

...

# What is sociocracy?

*“A collection of participatory tools that ensure shared power.”*

*-Many Voices, One Song by Ted Rau and Jerry Koch-Gonzales,*

*“Democracy as it could be.”*

*-Kees Boeke, sociocracy founder*



# HISTORY

## Sociocracy in Schools

### De werkplaats Kindergemeenschap, Netherlands

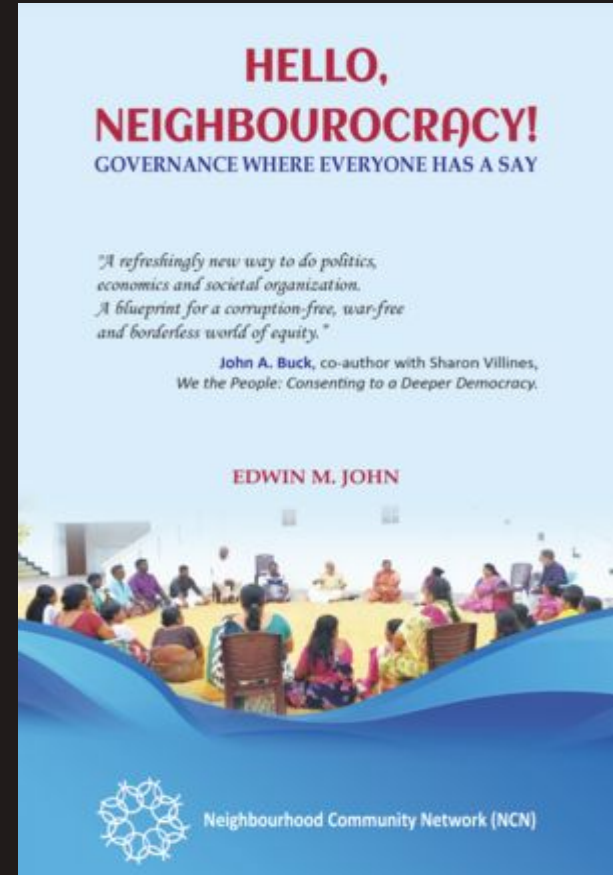
1926- present

- Currently ~ 50 schools using sociocracy with children worldwide



# Neighborhood Children's Parliament Movement - India

- Child-led federation that connects thousands of children
- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Using sociocracy



## Sociocracy in schools: School Circles film

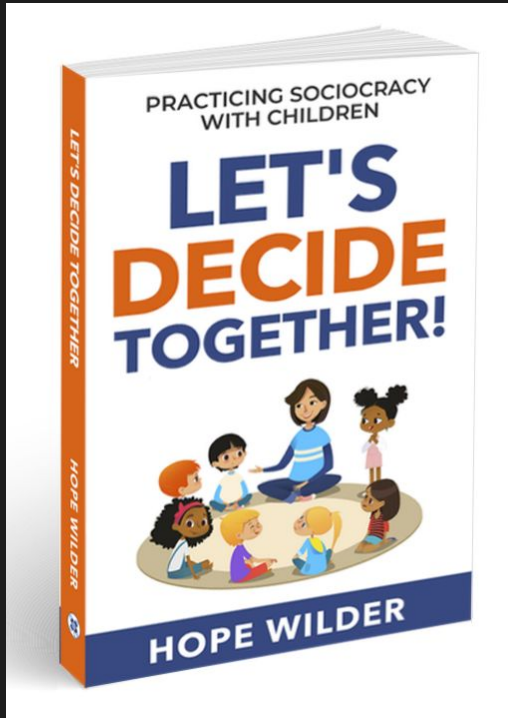


[wonderingschool.org](http://wonderingschool.org)  
[schoolcirclesfilm.com](http://schoolcirclesfilm.com)

## Children's parliaments: Power to the Children film



[powertothechildren-film.com](http://powertothechildren-film.com)



Let's get started!

...

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# Let's practice sociocracy with children!

- You need:
  - A group of children
  - An idea of what to **do** together
  - An idea of what to **decide** about
  - Sociocracy resources (like my book!)



# Children's Domains: What will you decide about?

Domains: What is the area children can fully decide about?

- What can you really, truly give children complete control over?
- In what context do you want a voice for consent?
- What remains within the adult's domain?

Ex: Safety



# Domain Ideas: What can the children decide about?

## Family:

- A room or common areas
- A weekly meal
- Chores

## School :

- Clubs
- Specific learning projects
- Planning an event
- A discretionary budget

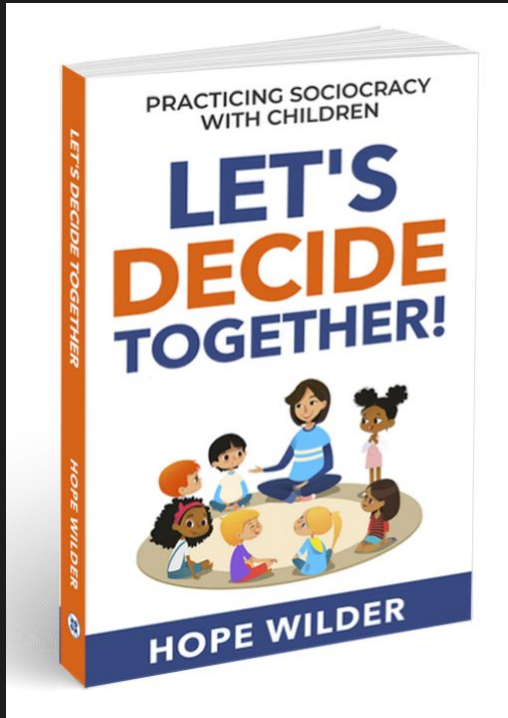


# Tell me more

- Are there children in your life with whom you want to practice sociocracy?
- In what context?
- If so, what domains do you think are possible with your group?

(Chat)





# Tools from the book

...

Mini Workshop

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# Thumbs consent

Are you OK with this decision?

- Is it good enough for now?
- Is it safe enough to try?

Thumbs Up / Down / Sideways

Reasoned objections → harvested



# Change Up Meeting

From Agile Learning Centers

Inspired by:

- Agile tools
- Sociocracy 3.0
- NVC needs



# Change Up Step 1: What's happening?

Whole group together announces.

- Problems
- Opportunities

What's  
Happening?

People are  
leaving paint  
on paint  
brushes

## Change Up Step 2: Identify needs

Needs related to this awareness:

- Group needs
- Individual needs

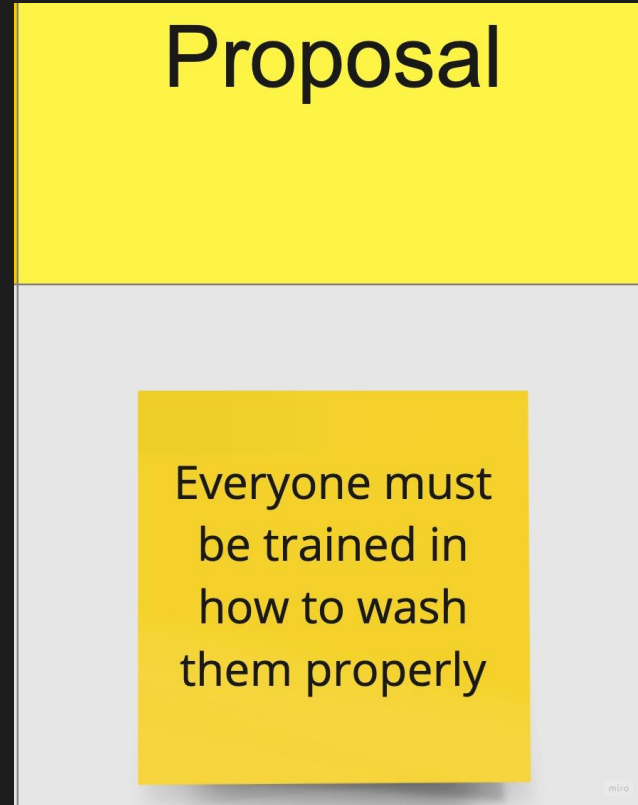
Needs

Everyone  
needs to be  
able to use the  
shared  
paintbrushes

# Change Up Step 3: Make Proposals

Breakout groups - 5-7 people

- Rounds for ideas
- Facilitator tunes
- 1-2 sticky notes
- Ask for consent



# Change Up Step 4: Questions for Evaluation

- Facilitator comes up with questions and writes them down
- You will answer questions at next check in
  - Are needs being met?
  - Is problem being solved?
  - Are concerns happening?

## Check In Questions

Is everyone able to use the brushes? Are they clean?

# Change Up Step 5: Try it out!

Check in next time to see how it's going.

Then, repeat!

**Any questions?**



**Our turn to practice!**

**Change up meeting results: let's implement them!**

# Q&A

Contact: [hope.wilder@sociocracyforall.org](mailto:hope.wilder@sociocracyforall.org)

Learn more and buy the book!

[sociocracyforall.org/lets-decide-together](https://sociocracyforall.org/lets-decide-together)

About Hope: [hopewildertraining.com](https://hopewildertraining.com)

## Check Out (Chat)

*What are you taking away from today?*