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
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

Hopewildertraining.com
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.
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
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)
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
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
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

Children’s parliaments: Power to the Children film

wonderingschool.org
schoolcirclesfilm.com

powertothechildren-film.com
Let's get started!
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
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
Change Up Step 2: Identify needs

Needs related to this awareness:

- Group needs
- Individual 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

Proposal

Everyone must be trained in how to wash them properly
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?
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

Learn more and buy the book!

sociocracyforall.org/lets-decide-together

About Hope: hopewildertraining.com
What are you taking away from today?