

Capturing the child's voice

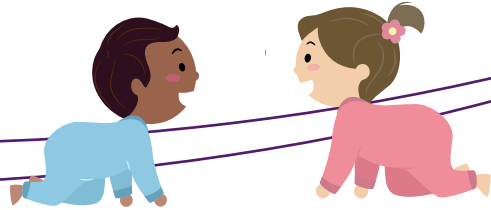


“ This is the most sensitive and hardest part of the child's journey. Our skills can either open up a child or close them down... [it's] critical we do things right by them at their most vulnerable moment. ”

**Professional quote -
NSPCC**

Role of the adult

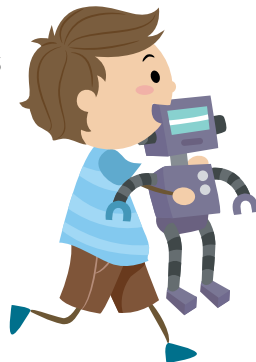
- Create a calm and private space to carry out this activity
- Adults **must not** over promise and be clear about confidentiality
- Adults need to be prepared to hear information that maybe emotive and remain objective and need to be aware of their own reactions
- Adults must try to be supportive but remain neutral
- Adults need to accept the perspective of the child or young person and capture their language
- It is important not to adopt a 'sticking plaster' approach and to explore difficulties, rather than just give reassurance



Why we listen to child and young people

The voice of ALL children in the family should be considered

- For some, this could be the first time an adult has fully listened
- Listening to and capturing the voice of the child is key for effective intervention and safeguarding
- It helps to understand child's lived experiences
- Builds a trusted relationships with children
- To understand what support is needed for the individual child
- Gives the child to opportunity be involved



Ways to gain their voice

- Use of video and voice recorder
- Books and photographs to prompt discussions
- Puppets, dolls, small world play
- Printables – likes & dislikes, 3 wishes, islands of support
- Music – song writing
- Get crafty – drawing, painting
- Cartoon strip or story writing
- Sand tray and other play-based strategies
- Go for a drive
- Engage child in their favourite activity such as sport



Further reading:

Voice of the Child: 20 sheets to gain child's wishes, feelings & views - Free Social Work Tools and Resources: SocialWorkersToolbox.com

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