

10 Tips for working with children/ young people

one



Pace

Follow the child's lead and allow them to explore topics at their own pace. Allow them to feel that they have control over their learning

Time Limited Activities

Aim to keep direct work sessions up to an hour long, unless of course the child(ren) are fully engaged and willing to continue. Aim to spend no longer than 20 minutes on each activity, ensuring that you have enough variation

two



three



Questioning

Avoid asking leading or closed questions. Give the child(ren) plenty of opportunity to speak, and repeat back what they say to confirm you have heard them

Inclusivity

Try to be creative and include touch, such as with felt or sand, movement, smell and colours in activities

four



five



Feedback

Constantly seek feedback from the child(ren) throughout the sessions to ascertain whether they are absorbing the learning as well as to monitor positive outcomes

Child's Interests

Wherever possible, try to incorporate the child's interests into the sessions. For example, if the child(ren)s interests are dance, start and end the session with a dance to their favourite (appropriate) song

six



seven



Switching Roles

Allow the child(ren) to lead on activities; particularly if you are delivering a session with siblings, in which case each sibling can take a turn to lead on an activity.

Laugh Together

Remember that you are not only looking at risk, but also strengths. Build strong relationships by establishing healthy rapport where you are able to teach the child(ren) about how to keep themselves safe, but are also able to have a giggle with them once in a while!

eight



nine



Books and Other Resources

Take books which are related to the subject matter you are exploring that the child(ren) may want to borrow until the next visit. Giving child(ren) this option gives the possibility for continued learning post the session

Praise, Praise, Praise!

Provide praise every step of the way to encourage the child(ren) and show that they are doing a fantastic job. Prepare certificates where you think a piece of work has been exceptional, give stickers for excellent answers, and praise them in front of parents

ten

