



Child Conferences – Interviewing Children

Some suggested questions:

- **What do you like doing best at home/at nursery/school?**
- **What do you think you can do now that you couldn't do before/when you were younger?**
- **What do you think you learn (or learn about) at nursery/school?**
- **What do you learn (or learn about) at home?**
- **What do you think you are really good at doing?**

Evidence collected when I was writing the book *'Observing and Assessing for the Foundation Stage Profile'* (Hodder and Stoughton, 2003), suggests that often nursery age children did not understand the word 'learn'. Using the word 'teach' (what do people/grown ups/family members teach you) before introducing the word learn seemed to be easier for many children to grasp.

Of course, for EAL children, it is important to ensure that children can be interviewed in their first languages. The aim of the interview is to take note of children's own views about their learning and achievements and to use these in planning. Interviews carried out in first languages will need to be made accessible to all staff involved in planning, and thus may need translating into English.

Vicky Hutchin, 2004