

Audience Groups 1-8 (Working Together 2010)

Methods Individual exercise; work in pairs;
large group feedback

Preparation
No additional preparation.

Links to Common Core

Common Core 1 Effective communication and engagement with children, young people, their families and carers (skills: listening and building empathy). Understand the role and value of families and carers as partners in supporting their children to achieve positive outcomes.

Common Core 2 Child and young person development (knowledge: understand context). Know and recognise the child or young person's position in a family or caring network, as well as a wider social context, and appreciate the diversity of these networks.

Childhood Neglect: Improving Outcomes for Children

Learning Outcomes

To overcome factors that impede assessment, analysis and planning.

Process

This exercise is to reflect on emotions when talking about children and families.

Ask participants to work individually to quickly sketch out their family tree. Then, ask them to work in pairs to explore how they might describe family members to a stranger. It should be made clear to participants that they need not share personal family details, but it is about exploring and recognising particular feelings this may have provoked, and to discuss how they might take account of this in practice.

Remember that if workers ask a child to draw their own family tree, particularly where there have been bereavements or conflicting family relationships in the family, this simple activity of putting the family structure down on paper may be distressing. This may also apply to participants undertaking this exercise.

Time

Total : 45 minutes

Individual work 5-10 mins

Discussion in pairs 30 mins

Large group feedback 5 mins

further

The emotional
impact of talking
about children
and families

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