

- 1. Working on your own, think of a child you have been working with directly or indirectly. In relation to each of the developmental needs set out in the Assessment Framework list the ways in which the child signals their needs (for example, when hungry do they say so or do they search for food or do they go quiet? When anxious do they seek comfort or behave aggressively?).
 - Health
 - Education
 - **■** Emotional and behavioural development
 - Identity
 - Family and social relationships
 - Social presentation
 - Self-care skills
- 2. In small groups share your notes and discuss to what extent you consider the child's expression of their needs to be in keeping with their developmental stage (for example, one would expect a young child to cry if hungry).
- Consider the factors that may be affecting parenting capacity of the caregiver (for example, substance misuse) and the extent to which these issues may be affecting the caregiver's capacity to identify the child's signals and respond to their needs. Discuss this in relation to:
 - Domestic abuse
 - Substance misuse
 - Learning disability
 - Mental health
 - Previous childhood abuse or neglect
 - **■** History of violence
- **4.** Explore ways in which the parent or carer can be supported to become more attuned to the way that their child signals their needs and to respond appropriately.

Understanding factors affecting parental empathy

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