

# The IRO Playlab



## Direct Work - Practice Tips

Consultations with children and young people needs to be well planned to ensure that key information is discussed and shared and the child wishes and feelings are ascertained.

Try to be creative in forming a relationship and to promote better engagement.

Research shows that children and young people appreciate workers who listen carefully before making a judgement or offering advice.

Young people express a desire to share their worries and need a way forward that enables them to maintain a sense of control.

IROs sometimes need to take action which children and young people do not agree with in order to safeguard them.

Children need help to exercise real choice about the nature of their involvement.

Attendance does not equal participation and not attending should not mean not participating.

Children need a trusting relationship with an adult, and time to digest the process and ask questions.

Children need choices about how to participate including the use of advocates, written messages, drawings, audio tapes: attendance at the conference needs careful planning.

It is important to address children's concerns about confidentiality so they understand the basis of the discussions; how these will be recorded / who information will be shared with and when.