



ENGAGING STUDENTS IN COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY WITH VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

The aim of this intervention was to improve communication between a social work student and a vulnerable child using a method of non verbal communication. This was done using a scaling grid via a virtual call and the effectiveness was evaluated. The feedback was positive from both the student and the child involved.

Planning

- Student's had an interest in direct work with children.
- She wanted to develop her skills in engaging children.
- Initial plans for face to face adapted to video call.
- A zoom meeting was set up as a closed meeting to ensure no one else was able to join.
- 10 questions devised that could be rated 1-10 and were relevant to fostering and the placement.



Intervention

- The intervention was based on using non verbal communication to gather feedback.
- Video call observed between social work student and child (aged 10).
- 10 questions were asked and the child then answered using a scale.
- Answers were written (1-10) in the chat section

Thank you and Future learning

I would like to thank the student who showed enthusiasm and eagerness to improve communication. I would also like to thank the young person that allowed us to test this intervention and gave feedback.

Being able to effectively communicate with children is a valuable skill which can be used in many fields. In the fostering agency I work for it is an ongoing struggle to engage children in giving feedback and I plan to encourage this method to be used with other children.

This was only tested with one student and one child so I would like to test this with others to establish the effectiveness.

Feedback

Feedback was taken verbally following the session.

The child commented he found it easy to answer the questions asked and enjoyed the talk using this tool.

Student Feedback

The student advised she enjoyed using this method of communication.

- She found it useful to have questions prepared so the conversation was structured.
- She found it worked well to encourage the child to engage.
- Improvements seen in the child's willingness to engage from previous visits.
- Feels it would be positive in working with most children particularly if they find it difficult to engage with professionals.

'Easier to engage the child, more open and really good way of communicating.'

Summary

The student had advised she had difficulty encouraging the child to engage previously and this allowed me to measure if the method is effective with children and young people who are reluctant to engage.

The young person interacted openly and the student was able to get a clear scale of how he was feeling. Using this method would allow the student to identify progress made or a change in the young person's feelings if the number answered had changed significantly.

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