

Listening to Children: Eliciting and understanding the child's perspective to support change

For what age?	At what level?
Primary and Secondary Schools	Universal, targeted and more targeted (Waves 1 to 3)

Why is it important to listen to children and young people?

Every child has the right to be involved in decisions made about them as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and numerous other sources of law and guidance.

Involving the child in decisions about them as well as the process of changing their own behaviours enhances their sense of autonomy, competence and belonging; increases their motivation and contributes to positive emotional wellbeing.

How do we know this helps children and young people?

The use of psychological theory and techniques including Personal Construct Psychology and Solution Focused Approaches, helps practitioners to understand and gain the child's perspective of a particular situation, thus enabling them to share their views. It also enables their voices to be heard, so that they are at the centre of any decisions being made about them.

How can schools help?

- Understanding the benefits of gaining a rich picture of the child's perspective.
- Having an awareness of the key principles for consulting with children and young people.
- Recognising how to talk with children and young people.
- Having knowledge of effective techniques for eliciting children and young people's views.

How can I access training?

To access centralised training, including at the TaMHS Conference if appropriate, please visit:

- [LGSS I Learn booking website](#)

Training at your school, or within clusters, for your staff can be commissioned from the Educational Psychology Service by contacting the TaMHS Administrator:

tamhs@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk or by speaking to your Link Educational Psychologist

What do delegates say about this training?

The course has made me think about how I gather children's voices and how this impacts on my work.

Very good course, will take lots away with me - Thank you.